

COUNTRY LIFE

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ALL INTERESTED IN
COUNTRY LIFE AND
COUNTRY PURSUITS

Vol. LXXXV

1939

January to June



LONDON

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COUNTRY LIFE

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advertisements for this column are accepted at the RATE OF 2D. PER WORD prepaid (if Box Number used 6d. extra), and must reach this office not later than Friday morning for the coming week's issue.

All communications should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, "COUNTRY LIFE," Southampton Street, Strand, London.

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(continued.)

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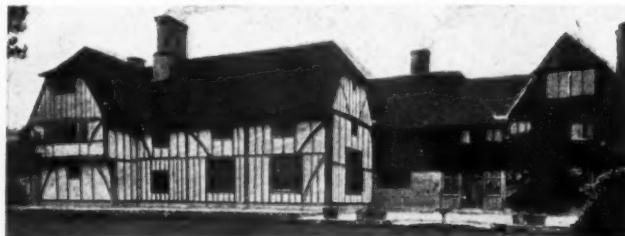


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(KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY's advertisements continued on page iii.)



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STABLING. COTTAGE.

Well-timbered Gardens
forming a very pleasant and secluded setting.**6 ACRES**

For Sale by Sole Agents: OSBORN & MERCER. (16,2062.)

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS
(ESTABLISHED 1778)
25, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.1.

And at
Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.,
West Halkin St., Belgrave Sq.,
12, Victoria Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.

"WRITTLE PARK," Near Chelmsford, Essex
WITH SHOOTING OVER 750 ACRES.
Entirely removed from all traffic and approached by an avenue of oaks.



TO BE LET UNFURNISHED
RENT £300 PER ANNUM

Full particulars of the Joint Sole Agents: H. W. INGLETON, Esq., Ingatestone, Essex; and GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (5054.)

RECOMMENDED FROM PERSONAL INSPECTION.

GEORGIAN HOUSE ON THE CHILTERN
WITHIN EASY DAILY REACH.



GARAGE (for 4). STABLING. COTTAGE.
BEAUTIFUL TIMBER **PRETTY PARKLANDS**

Owner's Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (6190.)

SUPERB POSITION IN SURREY
London, 19 miles. Absolutely rural. 750ft. up. Approached by quarter-mile avenue, guarded by Loddie.

THIS ATTRACTIVE WELL-BUILT RESIDENCE
recently modernized throughout, is in excellent order and contains:



10 principal bed and dressing rooms (all with running water, h. and c.), 5 baths, 4 reception rooms, billiard room, ample servants' accommodation and domestic offices.
Main electric light and water.
Central heating.
Garages, Stabling, Cottages, Farmery.
Lovely matured gardens and grounds, nicely timbered and inexpensive of upkeep including 4 tennis courts (2 grass and 2 hard) and beautifully wooded dell.

PRICE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED
with 110 ACRES of park-like land and woods.
All further particulars of GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (1825.)

SACRIFICIAL PRICE
accepted owing to ill health. Would be let Unfurnished or Furnished.

MODERN TUDOR STYLE MANSION
In a fine position in Shropshire with views to the Welsh Hills.



Recently redecorated almost throughout.
21 bed, 2 bath, 3 reception and billiard rooms.
Electric light.
Central heating.
Garages, Stabling.
Well laid out Grounds, Etc.
5 ACRES.
£2,750 (PART CAN REMAIN ON MORTGAGE)
MORE LAND AND COTTAGES AVAILABLE.
GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (7466.)

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK
Telephone: Regent 0911 (3 lines).
44, ST. JAMES'S PLACE, S.W.1.
ALSO AT RUGBY, OXFORD, BIRMINGHAM & CHIPPING NORTON.

Telephone:
Regent 0911 (3 lines).

25 MILES WEST OF LONDON
In a much favoured residential district and enjoying complete seclusion.
BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED RESIDENCE
with all labour-saving devices and most economical in upkeep.



3 reception, 7 principal and 4 servants' bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, servants' hall, etc.
Central heating and main services.
3 Cottages.
Garage, Stabling and Outbuildings.
Delightful Grounds, walled kitchen garden, etc., merging into natural woodlands with charming rides, heather and bracken: in all about
15 ACRES

Inspected and recommended by the Agents, Messrs. JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 18.225.)

ONE HOUR FROM LONDON
Good social and sporting district, a few miles from main line station.
CHARMING PERIOD RESIDENCE
dating from the Queen Anne, standing in fine old grounds and undulating parklands.



4 reception, about a dozen bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, etc.
Company's water and electric light.
Central heating.
Stabling.
Farmery. 2 Cottages.
NEARLY 100 ACRES

Owner's Agents, Messrs. JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 18.154.)

TURNER LORD & RANSOM
127, MOUNT STREET, LONDON, W.1

Telegrams:
TURLORAN, Audley,
London.

Telephone:
Gros. 2838
(3 lines)

AT VERY LOW PRICE.
BERKS-HANTS BORDER
A SMALL ESTATE
VIEWS EXTENDING UNINTERRUPTED FOR MILES.



Finely timbered Grounds, pasture, woodlands, tennis courts and walled kitchen garden.
30 ACRES
(PART EASILY SOLD OFF IF NOT REQUIRED).

TURNER LORD & RANSOM, 127, Mount Street, W.1. (Tel.: Grosvenor 2838, 3 lines).

IN A BEAUTIFUL PART OF ESSEX
Convenient for golf and sea at Frinton, Walton, Clacton, etc.
YACHTING.
SHOOTING.

LOVELY OLD HOUSE
part dating from 1475.
Central heating and hot water.
Main electricity and Company's water.
Hall, 3 good reception rooms, recreation or music room, good offices, maid's room, 8 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, Garages, etc.
Old-world Grounds, tennis lawn, prolific kitchen and flower gardens, orchards, about
2 ACRES

TURNER LORD & RANSOM, 127, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, W.1. (Tel.: Grosvenor 2838, 3 lines.)

Telephones:
Grosvenor 3131 (3 lines)

CURTIS & HENSON

LONDON

Telegrams
"Submit, London."

GREATLY REDUCED PRICE

A TUDOR HOUSE NEAR BEACHY HEAD

ONLY 4 MILES FROM A FIRST-CLASS SERVICE OF ELECTRIC TRAINS TO LONDON.



The Gardens and Grounds, forming a perfect setting for the house, are in excellent condition. Fine lawns and trees, rose garden and long herbaceous borders. Well-stocked kitchen garden.

FOR SALE WITH 36 ACRES. FREEHOLD

HUNTING AND GOLF.

Highly recommended by CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1, who will send illustrated Brochure on request.

WELL-KNOWN EARLY GEORGIAN HOUSE.—Only 9 miles from the West End yet in a quiet position overlooking a Green of great historical interest close to the shopping centre and river. Hall, morning room, dining room, study, drawing room (all panelled), excellent domestic offices, 6 principal bedrooms, 4 servants' bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Central heating; main water; drainage; gas and electricity. Secluded Garden. Many thousands have been spent on the property during recent years and it is now in perfect order throughout. For Sale Freehold. 2 Golf Courses nearby.—Illustrated particulars from CURTIS and HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (5274.)

HUNTING WITH THE COTTESMORE, BELVOIR AND QUORN.—An old Stone-built Hunting Box. Hall, 3 reception rooms, 3 principal bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 maids' rooms. Large Barn suitable for conversion. Central heating; telephone; main water and electric light. Garage. Stabling. Attractive Gardens, partly walled; paddock, in all about 3) Acres. FOR SALE FREEHOLD.

CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (16,334.)

AVON VALE (Bath 8 miles, Melksham, 4 miles).—Fine FAMILY RESIDENCE in 14-ACRE park. Drawing room, dining room, library, study, morning room, 7 bedrooms, 3 dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms, nursery suite, 8 secondary bedrooms, comprehensive domestic offices. Own electric light. Ground floor central heating. Garages and stables. Pleasant grounds with spreading lawns. Ha-ha fence giving on to park. Farmhouse and range of buildings. 3 other Cottages can be had. 20½ ACRES. Additional land available. TO BE LET ON LONG LEASE. (16,327.)

THE FILLIP

given to the demand for landed investments by the international crises of the past year shows no sign of abating.

Messrs. CURTIS & HENSON

have several buyers still seeking the financial security which ownership of land affords.

Owners or Agents able to offer this type of investment anywhere in England are invited to send full particulars, with plans, to 5, Mount Street, W.1, where early consideration will be given to suitable Estates.

NEAR NEWMARKET HEATH.—Small RACING ESTABLISHMENT, immediately adjoining well-known Training Grounds. Substantially-built Residence, in perfect repair and lavishly appointed. 4 reception rooms, 13 bed and dressing rooms, 6 bathrooms. Central heating and main services. Large Garage and useful Outbuildings. Extensive range of loose boxes. Very Pleasant Gardens, with wide lawns shaded by fine trees, herbaceous borders, kitchen garden and hard tennis court.

FOR SALE AT NEARLY HALF ITS COST. (15,470.)

CONVENIENT FOR MIDHURST, PETWORTH AND THE SOUTH DOWNS.—A commodious modern RESIDENCE with extensive views. Reception rooms, dance room, 10 principal bedrooms, 4 servants' bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, usual domestic offices. Main electric light and power; central heating. 3 Cottages. Delightful grounds; sand soil. To be Let Unfurnished or For Sale Freehold. (16,096.)

IN UNSPOILT ENGLAND (near Sherborne).—A first-class FARMING PROPERTY, beautifully situated in a delightful locality. Picturesque old Residence of stone with mullioned windows. 3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, bathroom, good domestic offices with servants' hall. Dairy. Modern farmbuildings, conveniently arranged around a yard and containing accommodation for a stud of horses or large dairy farm. Delightful gardens, including two tennis lawns, croquet lawn, kitchen garden and orchard, the remainder of the Estate being rich grazing. In all ABOUT 160 ACRES.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD. Hunting with the Blackmore Vale. (11,686.)

SANDWICH GOLF COURSE

WITHIN EASY REACH.



Near to the Sea, facing South-west.

A CHARMING RED-BRICK RESIDENCE

situate in a secluded position and designed by a well-known Architect. The principal rooms are arranged to obtain the maximum amount of sunshine.

9 BEDROOMS, 2 RECEPTION ROOMS, BATHROOM, LOUNGE HALL, BILLIARDS ROOM, STUDY.

Co.'s water. Good drainage.

2 GARAGES.

Delightful Flower Gardens, kitchen garden, tennis court, glass house; in all about

2 ACRES

Sea-fishing at Deal. Golf at Royal St. George's and Princes' Golf Clubs. FOR SALE FREEHOLD (5054.)

KENT AND SUSSEX BORDERS

UNDER 45 MILES FROM LONDON.



500ft. up.

THE RESIDENCE

commands views over miles of beautiful country. Recently the subject of great expenditure, the house has been brought up-to-date in every way.

LOUNGE HALL, 3 RECEPTION ROOMS, 12 BED AND DRESSING ROOMS, 5 BATHROOMS.

2 OR 3 COTTAGES. LARGE GARAGE.

Co.'s water and electricity.

The Gardens, although a most beautiful feature of the property, can be maintained in perfect order by 2 gardeners. Tennis court.

FOR SALE WITH 29 ACRES (OR LESS)

Personally inspected and recommended. CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (17,402A.)

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GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

WILSON & CO.

CHARTERED SURVEYORS, LAND AGENTS AND AUCTIONEERS

Telephone:
Grosvenor 1441 (three lines.)

DELIGHTFUL POSITION CLOSE TO THE ASHDOWN FOREST

3 MILES FROM EAST GRINSTEAD AND THE ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST GOLF COURSE.



MAGNIFICENT VIEWS OVER UNSPOILT COUNTRY.
Over 400ft. up on sand rock subsoil.

A STONE-BUILT MODERN HOUSE

Standing in centre of own Estate.
PASTURE AND WOODLAND. PARTLY BOUNDED BY A STREAM.

ABOUT 113 ACRES

CHARMING WELL-TIMBERED GARDENS.
LOUNGE HALL, 4 RECEPTION ROOMS, 11 PRINCIPAL BEDROOMS.
2 BATHROOMS AND SERVANTS' ROOMS.
Electric light. Central heating. Good water supply.
GARAGES. STABLING.
CHAUFFEUR'S FLAT. 2 LODGES. FARMHOUSE. 2 COTTAGES.

FREEHOLD FOR SALE AT VERY REASONABLE PRICE

Sole Agents: WILSON & CO., 14, Mount Street, W.1.

A QUEEN ANNE HOUSE IN HAMPSHIRE

SEATED WITHIN FINELY TIMBERED OLD GROUNDS AND PARK.

500 ACRES

Amidst perfect country in a favourite residential and sporting part.

THE LOVELY PERIOD HOUSE

Is of exceptional character, in faultless order, with original features, 15 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms, very fine suite of entertaining rooms.

HOME FARM. SPORTING WOODLANDS. FOR SALE.

Agents: WILSON & CO., 14, Mount Street, W.1.

ORIGINAL XVth CENTURY MANOR

ONE OF THE MOST PERFECT OLD HOUSES IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND.

THE ESTATE IS ABOUT 100 ACRES IN EXTENT

and the gardens are of an old-world character in keeping with the ancient structure. The whole place in wonderful order. 11 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fine galleried hall, 3 reception rooms.

SUPERB PANELLING AND DECORATIVE FEATURES OF THE PERIOD.

Central heating. Electric light. Garages. Stabling. Cottages.
FOR SALE AT A REASONABLE PRICE.

Agents: WILSON & CO., 14, Mount Street, W.1.

Phone: Grosvenor 2861.
Grams: "Cornishmen, London."

TRESIDDER & CO.

77, SOUTH AUDLEY STREET, W.1

REDUCED PRICE.

RECOMMENDED.

HOUR'S RAIL LONDON

Excellent hunting. Rough shooting.

"PERIOD" RESIDENCE IN PARK

Lounge hall, 4 reception, 4 bathrooms, 10-14 bed and dressing rooms.

Main electricity and water. Central heating.

HUNTER STABLING. GARAGES. COTTAGES. Nicely timbered GROUNDS, hard tennis court, walled kitchen garden and first-class grazing, 80 ACRES. TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (0541.)

£2,400.

7 ACRES.

40 MINUTES LONDON

Rural position, 3 miles main line.

A VERY WELL-BUILT RESIDENCE

of pre-War period, in first-class order.

Hall, 4 reception, 2 bathrooms, 7 bed and dressing rooms. Main water and electricity. Central heating.

GARAGE. STABLING.

Tennis court, kitchen garden, orchard and paddock. TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (02748.)

BARGAIN AT £4,500.

5 ACRES.

10 MILES BATH

(2 miles two stations; healthy position).

QUEEN ANNE RESIDENCE

In good order.

Lounge hall, billiard room, 5 reception rooms, 4 or more bathrooms, 17 bedrooms.

N.B.—By slight alteration House can be reduced in size and good garage accommodation formed.

Basins (h. and c.), main electricity and water, central heating.

GARDENS and GROUNDS of about 5 ACRES.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (17,033.)

50 ACRES.

ONLY £5,000.

25 MILES LONDON

700ft. up. Wonderful views.

STONE-BUILT HOUSE

Hall, billiard room, 4 reception, 3 bathrooms, 10-14 bed and dressing rooms.

Electric light. Main water. Central heating.

Garage for 3. Stabling. Lodge. 2 Cottages.

Beautifully timbered GROUNDS, orchard, park and woodlands.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (11,748.)

£1,975. BARGAIN.

W. GLOS.

½ mile main road.

Hunting, golf, fishing.

QUEEN ANNE COTTAGE

3 reception, bathroom, 5 bedrooms.

Central heating. Main electricity and drainage.

Double garage. Stabling. Cottage.

HARD TENNIS COURT. Inexpensive grounds.

Kitchen garden, orchard, etc.; in all about 14 ACRES.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (19,388.)

SURREY-SUSSEX BORDERS

BARGAIN AT 1,450 GUINEAS

Few minutes' walk station.

WELL-BUILT RESIDENCE

with drive approach.

3 reception, bathroom, 9 bedrooms. All main services.

WELL-KEPT GARDEN

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (18,972.)

FIRST OFFER OF £1,500 SECURES WEYBRIDGE

25 minutes Waterloo.

AN ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE

in good order.

Hall, cloakroom, w.c., 3 reception, bathroom, 8 bed and dressing rooms, workroom.

All main services. Independent hot water.

Garage (for 2). Useful Outbuildings.

Charming GARDEN, rock and water garden, tennis court, etc.; about 1 ACRE.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (19,181.)

LOW PRICE. FREEHOLD. Would Sell with Furniture. (2 miles station; 1 hour London).

SOUTH OXON

Substantially Built Country House

with charming interior; south aspect.

3 reception, bathroom, 6 bedrooms. Main electricity.

GARAGE. STABLING.

GROUNDS of nearly 3 ACRES, rose garden, orchard, etc.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (19,220.)

IDEAL FOR COUNTRY HOTEL, SCHOOL, Etc.

35 MINUTES WATERLOO

Rural position.

MANSION IN SMALL PARK

Fine suite reception rooms, 5 bathrooms, 40 bedrooms (several fitted basins, h. and e.).

Electric light. Excellent water. Telephone. Central heating.

GARAGES. LAKE. RANGE OF GLASSHOUSES.

Inexpensive grounds. Farmery. Small house, etc.

FOR SALE AS A WHOLE OR WOULD BE DIVIDED.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (6308.)

FOR SALE UPON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF JOSEPH STEPHENSON, ESQ., O.B.E.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

4 miles from Peterborough on the Great North Road, in the heart of the Fitzwilliam Hunt, close to the Collesmore and Woodland Pytchley and about 10 miles from Barnwell Castle, recently acquired by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester. 80 minutes by train from King's Cross.



Estate Offices: HITCHIN, LUTON, BEDFORD and KETTERING.

ALWALTON HALL

3 RECEPTION ROOMS, BILLIARDS ROOM, 10 BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.

CHARMING GARDENS.

MODERN STABLING. WELL TIMBERED PARK, PASTURE LAND AND 2 COTTAGES.

59 ACRES.

Illustrated particulars and price from the Sole Agents:—

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FOR SALE IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA

MAGNIFICENT CATTLE RANCH AND TOBACCO FARM, 8,220 ACRES: 25 miles nearest town; 12½ miles railway station. Ranch well watered, and one of the best grazing propositions in district. Has very good land for maize and tobacco.

Proposition for young man with capital to start on.

PRICE 10/- PER ACRE.

£3,000 CASH, IF DESIRED.

Balance payable over 3 years, Bank Interest.

No Taxes.

IDEAL FARM TO GROW AND FEED CATTLE FOR EXPORT. ALL NECESSARY FARMBUILDINGS

Write:

CUMMING, GWELO, SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

HAMPSHIRE & SOUTHERN COUNTIES

17, Above Bar, Southampton, WALLER & KING, F.A.I.

Business Established over 100 years

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JOHN D. WOOD & CO.

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UNFURNISHED LEASE FOR DISPOSAL ON REASONABLE TERMS

BETWEEN EAST GRINSTEAD AND HAYWARDS HEATH

ONLY 30 MILES FROM LONDON IN BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY. WITHIN 3 MILES OF ASHDOWN FOREST.

SOUTH ASPECT.

THIS ATTRACTIVE STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE

In splendid order, containing:
11 PRINCIPAL BEDROOMS,
8 BATHROOMS.
3 SERVANTS' BEDROOMS.
BILLIARDS ROOM,
and
4 RECEPTION ROOMS.
WINTER GARDEN.

Main electric light and water.
Central heating.



EXCELLENT STABLING AND
GARAGES.
2 LODGES AND 6 COTTAGES.
HOME FARM (let).

BEAUTIFULLY TIMBERED
GROUNDS.

swimming pool, hard and grass courts and
park: in all about

345 ACRES

forming an excellent shoot (about 800
pheasants usually reared).

LARGE LAKE AFFORDING BOATING
AND COARSE FISHING.

Strongly recommended by JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1, or TURNER, RUDGE & TURNER, East Grinstead. (30,210.)

WEST SUSSEX. NEAR GOODWOOD AND THE DOWNS

A GEORGIAN HOUSE IN A LOVELY SETTING WITH ABOUT 80 ACRES

SOUTH ASPECT OVER PARK-LIKE SURROUNDINGS.



Good hall, 3 large reception rooms,
study, billiard room, 16 bedrooms,
6 bathrooms.

Main electric light and water.
Automatic oil-fired central heating
throughout.

GOOD GARAGE
AND OUTBUILDINGS.

SMALL HOME FARM AND
5 COTTAGES.

BEAUTIFULLY
TIMBERED GROUNDS
and walled garden.

TO BE SOLD



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IDEAL FOR SCHOOL, INSTITUTION OR HOTEL.

WILTS AND GLOS BORDERS

CONVENIENT FOR KEMBLE (1½ HOURS PADDINGTON), CHIPPENHAM AND SWINDON.



PICTURESQUE STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE

approached by carriage drive and
standing in

89 ACRES

23 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, billiard
and 4 reception rooms.

Electric light and excellent water
supply.

HOME FARM, LODGE,
BAILIFF'S HOUSE AND
5 COTTAGES.

Splendid Stables and Buildings.
Inexpensive Grounds.

LONG STRETCH OF
TROUT FISHING.

Hunting with two packs and con-
venient for Polo Grounds.



FOR SALE AT A GREATLY REDUCED PRICE

Full particulars of JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, W.1. (60,869.)

SUSSEX

EAST GRINSTEAD, TURNERS HILL, BALCOMBE, OR THREE BRIDGES DISTRICT

JOHN D. WOOD & CO.

have a buyer requiring a good FAMILY HOUSE in this part of Sussex.

THE HOUSE TO CONTAIN 12 TO 14 BEDROOMS, GOOD RECEPTION ROOMS AND BATHROOMS. ENOUGH LAND FOR PRIVACY, SAY NOT LESS THAN
25 ACRES, BUT A LARGE AREA IS NOT REQUIRED.

Up to £15,000 will be paid for a suitable place in good order.

Will owners contemplating selling please send particulars and photographs to JOHN D. WOOD & CO., quoting reference 6/268? (Usual commission required.)

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ON THE BORDERS OF OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ADJACENT TO THE ANCIENT TOWN OF BRACKLEY. 9 MILES FROM BANBURY. BEAUTIFUL SITUATION IN PARK.



The very fine Freehold Residence
"EVENLEY HALL,"
23 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms, 5 reception rooms, good domestic offices. Stabling; garage. Lodge.

Excellent water. Main electricity. Well-kept walled Kitchen Garden, and ample glass. Vines, figs, peaches, nectarines in profusion. SUPERB PLEASURE GARDENS wide lawns, rose and water gardens.

75 ACRES
NO TITHE.
IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

Price only £7,000 Freehold
Valuable timber, £642 extra.
Inspection can be made at any time on presentation of card to Gardener.



Particulars and plan of Messrs. FOX & SONS, Land Agents, Bournemouth.

BY DIRECTION OF MAJOR W. P. COLFOX, M.C., M.P.

BRIDPORT, DORSET

SITUATE HALF-A-MILE OUTSIDE THE TOWN, 2½ MILES FROM WEST BAY, 15 MILES FROM DORCHESTER.

THE IMPORTANT FREEHOLD
RESIDENTIAL ESTATE.
"WESTMEAD"

comprising the delightful stone-built Residence, containing:
9 PRINCIPAL BED AND DRESSING ROOMS,
5 SERVANTS' ROOMS,
3 BATHROOMS,
HALL, 3 RECEPTION ROOMS,
AMPLE DOMESTIC OFFICES.



All public services.

GARAGES. Gardener's Cottage. Entrance Lodge.

BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS of about
4½ ACRES

PRICE £4,250 FREEHOLD

Can be viewed at any time on production of card to gardener in charge.

Illustrated particulars and plan of the Joint Sole Agents Messrs. FOX & SONS, 44-50, Old Christchurch, Bournemouth; and Messrs. SANCTUARY & SON, Bridport, Dorset.

BRANKSOME PARK, BOURNEMOUTH

THIS MOST ATTRACTIVE FREEHOLD RESIDENCE FOR SALE
WITH POSSESSION.SPECIALLY DESIGNED AND BUILT
FOR PRESENT OWNER.SUNNY CORNER POSITION WITH
DELIGHTFUL SEA VIEWS.

7 BEDROOMS (each fitted basin, b. and c.),
2 DRESSING ROOMS,
4 BATHROOMS.



4 RECEPTION,

LOUNGE HALL,

SERVANTS' SITTING ROOM

WELL-EQUIPPED KITCHEN.

CENTRAL HEATING.

DOUBLE GARAGE.

CHARMING GARDEN.

Particulars and photo of FOX & SONS, 52, Poole Road, Bournemouth West.

PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST CHARMING SMALL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES ON THE
SOUTH COAST

occupying a gorgeous position with unobstructed sea views extending to the Needles, Isle of Wight and the Solent.

ABSOLUTELY UNIQUE IN DESIGN
AND HAVING ALL MODERN CONVENiences AND COMFORTS.

South aspect.

4 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM,
BOXROOM,
CHARMING LOUNGE (with beamed ceiling),
KITCHEN.



Good store cupboards.

All main services. Central heating.

GARAGE (for 3 cars).

ATTRACTIVE GARDEN
and extra soft, plot adjoining.

PRICE £2,650 FREEHOLD

Particulars of FOX & SONS, Land Agents, Bournemouth.

FOX & SONS, BOURNEMOUTH (TEN OFFICES); AND SOUTHAMPTON

ESTATE HARRODS OFFICES

Kens. 1480. Telegrams: "Estate, Harrods, London."

400ft. up on the Chilterns. In favourite Amersham district. c.4.
FASCINATING, MODERNISED, OLD-FASHIONED HOUSE

STANDING WELL BACK FROM THE ROAD.



TWO GARAGES, STABLING, USEFUL OUTBUILDINGS.
ONLY £5,000. FREEHOLD.

HARRODS, LTD., 62-64, Brompton Road, S.W.1.

ON A SPUR OF THE CHILTERN HILLS c.9.

500ft. up. Excellent order. Southern aspect.

MODERN LABOUR-SAVING RESIDENCE
 IN A DELIGHTFUL WOODLAND POSITION.



Garden and Woodlands: about 2 ACRES
THE YEAR'S BARGAIN AT £2,400 FREEHOLD

HARRODS, LTD., 62-64, Brompton Road, S.W.1.

KENT COAST (1½ HOURS LONDON) c.6.Unrivalled position on Southern slope, overlooking Golf Links and the Sea.
 Quiet and peaceful surroundings.**SMALL HOUSE OF CHARACTER****FREEHOLD £3,500 OR NEAR OFFER**

Inspected and strongly recommended by the Agents: HARRODS, LTD., 62-64, Brompton Road, S.W.1.

OF STRONG APPEAL TO BUSINESS MAN OR GOLFING ENTHUSIAST.
SURREY s.1.

Banstead Downs Golf Courses (Club House barely 5 minutes' walk); 350ft. up; extremely quiet; 10 minutes' walk station.

A RESIDENCE OF SINGULAR ATTRACTION AND CHARM

GARDENS ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT by a well-known firm of landscape gardeners; specimen trees and shrubs, lawns, rose garden, hard tennis court with overhead watering, ornamental pond, beautiful Italian garden, sunk rock garden, kitchen and fruit garden, etc.

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HERTFORD AND HATFIELD c.2.

Occupying a quietly retired position, standing high, overlooking the Valley of the Beane, and placed in a district affording excellent social amenities.

MELLOWED OLD HOUSE OF CHARACTER
 SET AMIDST LOVELY GARDENS.

3 reception, 8 bed, 2 bath, maids' sitting room.

All main services.

Central Heating.

Water Softener.

Garage for 2 cars.

Outbuildings.

SOUTH RAQUET COURT.

Most attractive Gardens sloping in terraces to the River Beane, with frontage thereto, and possessing an island, in all

About 3 ACRES.

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£4,250

Or would be Let Furnished for 2 years (owing to owner's absence on service abroad). Rent 8 Guineas per week.

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First-class Residential locality, about 2 miles from famous Epsom Downs,

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REALLY CHARMING LABOUR-SAVING RESIDENCE

Designed under the supervision of an Architect and in splendid order throughout.

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Co.'s Electric Light.

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Garden most tastefully laid out, with rockery, ornamental lawns, choice shrubs, fruit trees, etc.

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MODERN QUEEN ANNE STYLE RESIDENCE

8 bed and dressing, 3 reception, 3 bath, billiard room, excellent offices.

Co.'s Electric Light.

Gas and Water.

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Garage for 3 cars.

Chauffeur's Accommodation.

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Including hard tennis court, meadow and woodlands.

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Large Garage.

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This very attractive COUNTRY HOUSE contains central lounge (42ft. by 19ft.), billiards room, 3 other reception, kitchen with "Aga" cooker, 12 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 5 bathrooms.

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SPACIOUS GARAGE with chauffeur's flat above.

COTTAGE.

HARD AND GRASS TENNIS COURTS.

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ONLY £2,300

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£3,500

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THE WHOLE PROPERTY, BUILDINGS,
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High situation. Sunny South aspect. Delightful views to Sea and Downs.

Close to famous Golf Course.

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Perfectly appointed and in faultless order. 7 or 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,

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DELIGHTFUL OLD GARDENS and nicely timbered Grounds; in all about

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All Main Services.

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THE MOON AND RABBITS

NOW and then one comes across rigid beliefs which are probably derided by the scientific world. I owe it to the fact that I bought a vast telescope at a local sale that I am now told more about rabbits. It must be quite clear that I am not an astronomer, but anyway I had never had an adequate telescope, so I bought it, and as it's about the size of a trench mortar and I have been shivering round it finding out how colossally ignorant I am, this becomes local news. Incidentally, I advise anybody bored with Hitler and Stalin to get down to elementary astronomy; it affords mental comfort.

But, of course, in the country astronomy and astrology are not precisely differentiated, and it was taken for granted that my main interest was in the moon and its effects. The surly old gardeners of the past kept an eye on the moon, and they planted at special times, or more often they made excuses for not planting, which rendered this adamantine species of man unpopular. Modern science is just a little bit half-hearted about the moon. Our fathers damned her for a loose superstition, but somewhere down in the Pacific a special sea-worm responds only to lunar phases, and science is not quite so intolerant as it was.

Now, apparently, according to my informant, rabbits feed at different times according to the phase of the moon, and the only thing which upsets their regular habits is promise of bad weather to come. The last point is no myth. I have seen rabbits feeding early in the paddock and found the glass obstinately conservative—but the hygrometer has always rather supported the rabbits, and on the following morning the rain-gauge has always justified the pessimism of the conies.

Now, I like a good, well-believed superstition. It may be wrong as anything, but I always think that under it is a grain of truth and a pound or two of real interest; so I am beginning to learn matters which may be the wildest of heresies but, I think, have truth at heart. I do not discount the statement of the rabbit-trapper who says that, having set "thousands and thousands of wires," he finds that on a waxing moon rabbits feed early—on a waning one out into the hours of dawn. It is not my business to know just precisely how this nocturnal knowledge was acquired, but I am asking my friend to come up and look through the big new ju-ju telescope at the moon, for I am quite sure that he does not know of any planets and his lore is that of the moon.

My parlourmaid, a country girl, is equally certain about the moon and mushrooms and that the moon "draws them up." It is a belief decorously masked with the veneer of education—but I think deeper. If the moon was not in the right quarter

it would never occur to her to cross the road to the paddocks and take a basket of mushrooms to her family. On a short series of observations this year, rain has fallen or there has been heavy dew in the first two quarters. In fact, the moon theory canters home an easy winner with about 83 per cent. of observation in its favour. This seems unsound, but there is a Phenological Branch of the Meteorological Office. A lot of people have noted for years when the swallow or the cuckoo comes, when plants flower, and a certain amount of really useful stuff has come out of these seemingly useless observations. Phenology is by way of being an embryo science, and it is far more like a science than, shall we say, psychology. Now phenology has a long story of observation to its credit, but, so far as I know, it has never been related to astronomical considerations.

Here is a gap. I am rather inclined to consider that if we got the Royal Astronomical Society to put their mathematicians to work on the reports of the Phenological Branch of the Royal Meteorological Society we might get a clue to the still profound influence of our Lady the Moon.

Three keepers more or less confirm this change of feeding time, and, as our weather is always dubious and our skies cloudy, they are inclined to think that, "provided it is not too wet," rabbits feed in some sort of relationship to a moon phase.

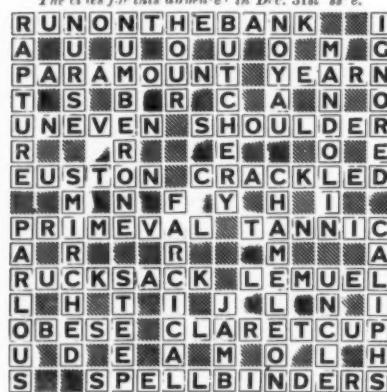
I do not know anything about it myself, for I seldom wander after dusk. I have no illusions about my inability to see the roosting pheasant on a low bough, nor any illusions about the superior vision of a poacher. He knows where and how to look; but this idea about the rabbit seems to me to be perfectly right. It "gees," as a horseman says when one of his colts makes a friend and companion of another. It is an unreasonable sort of fact, but it is a fact of a sort. Probably a small army of youngsters who ought to be earning their own living instead of still being on the nipple of their *alma mater* could reduce fact or fancy to real figures over twenty years of observation. This would be splendid, provided always that somebody else paid them for it, and there are times when I wonder whether we are really worse off than our forefathers, if we at the top of the tree do not know much about a possible lunar effect which the hedge-clipper seriously believes. So far as I see it, he is probably right in his observation but wrong in his reasoning.

But I would like shooting people to say whether they have noticed any moon effect. Though most of it may be wrong, I think there is a substratum of useful fact in it. And, anyway, it's entertaining to believe!

H. B. C. P.

SOLUTION to No. 466.

The class for this answer is in Dec. 31st issue.



ACROSS

- "Our cut prices" (anagr.) (two words, 6, 6)
- Was the place where the Cyclops lived? (7)
- The kind of neckwear for a poet (7)
- Thomas (7)
- Sounds as though the load had metal in it (7)
- It may be found in the insular range (5)
- Advice to one who puts himself on a pedestal (three words, 4, 3, 2)
- "Gross rage" (anagr.) (9)
- African order to slim? (5)
- Prison saint (7)
- The operation is to put the shoot in first (7)
- Roundabout way to begin showing lack of interest (7)
- Has the greengrocer used it on his old potatoes? (two words, 4, 3)
- Don't keep your bees here (three words, 5, 4, 3)

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 467

A prize of books to the value of 3 guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 467, COUNTRY LIFE, 20, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the **first post on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 1939.**

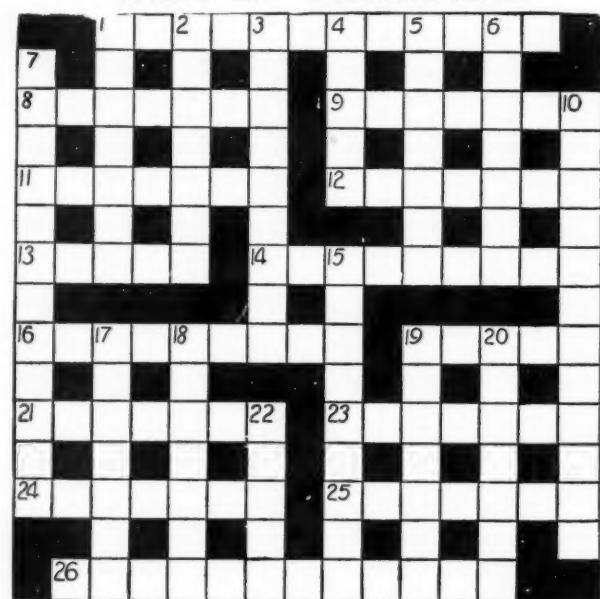
The winner of Crossword No. 465 is R. B. Robinson, Esq., Berigem, Maresfield Park, Sussex.

The winner of Crossword No. 466 is G. B. Henderson, Esq., Upper Hall, Braughing, Herts.

DOWN.

- One section of the Prime Minister's home? (7)
- The story turned on a country town (7)
- Not a criticism of the melodramatic player (9)
- He has to add a bit apocryphally (4)
- Walpole's novel structure (7)
- He makes an end of a dispute in Rome (7)
- Read one of his poems at the finish (two words, 4, 8)
- Smith's sunshade (two words, 8, 4)
- Harriet gives the saint water in France (9)
- But presumably there were some who also ran on to these sands (7)
- Have a good look to see what the Customs officers will do (7)
- Quite large (7)
- The least way away (7)
- The type that goes to see the greyhounds (5).

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 467



Name

Address

CRUFT'S KENNEL NOTES

JANUARY being almost a blank month in the exhibition world, it is not surprising that exhibitors look forward to the second week in February, a date set apart for many years for Cruft's great show in the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington. This year it will be Wednesday and Thursday, February 8th and 9th, and exhibitors should make a careful note of those days and also of the fact that entries will close definitely on January 23rd. Any that are received after that date will have to be returned in accordance with the Regulations of the Kennel Club, that admit of no relaxation. Old exhibitors should be well aware of this fact, yet the absent-minded people

Special classes are put on for them in a large proportion of the breeds. An extraordinary number of specials are available to them only, and altogether it may be said that exhibitors receive excellent value for a very modest subscription. Among other restricted classes that are put on are some for members of the West of England Ladies' Kennel Society.

By this time schedules have been posted to many thousands of potential exhibitors, who will be studying them with great care. The first thing to impress will be the remarkable number of classes that are found to be necessary to suit the needs of nearly a hundred breeds. Much thought must have been expended in drawing

up such a comprehensive programme and adjusting the classification in an appropriate manner. The requirements of each breed have to be considered and allowance made for the number of entries that they are in the habit of putting up. Some of our readers may have what they believe to be a goodish dog. Its merits can be ascertained by entering it for this show. A postcard to the Secretary, Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, N., will bring a copy of the schedule, in which full particulars of all the classes are printed together with the definitions of these classes. Should the dog get in the prize list its value will be much increased and the owner will experience all the joys of a victory at the greatest show in the world.

Among all the charming little pets, few can compare with poodles minature, which are smart, intelligent and hardy. They are still sufficiently unusual to attract, and win admiration, wherever they are seen. Mrs. J. Campbell Inglis, 20, Parkside, Wimbledon Common, S.W.19, a member of Cruft's Dog Show Society, has for

long specialised in the small variety of this old breed. The Mannerhead minatures have every reason to look back with complacency upon the year that has just closed, as, out of a possible eighteen challenge certificates, they have won seventeen, and on fourteen occasions they have also been reserve for the honour, which is indeed a praiseworthy record. Ch. Flashlight of Mannerhead was the fifth best exhibit at Cruft's last February and the best of all breeds owned by a woman.

The Gem of Mannerhead, whose photograph appears to-day, is a very tiny black daughter of Ch. Flashlight, and has only been shown a few times. She was placed as runner-up for the challenge certificate at Kensington, Windsor, Birmingham and the Kennel Club, and at the Metropolitan and Essex show at the Alexandra Palace she received the supreme honour under Mrs. Clifford Warren.

Curious to say, too, some of the Continental and American papers give considerable prominence to reports of these shows, which is an indication of the esteem in which they are held abroad. Another thing to be noted is that subscribers to Cruft's Dog Show Society obtain a great many concessions and privileges.

These tiny poodles, which do not measure more than 15 inches at the shoulder, are so smart in carriage and appearance that they never fail to win the admiration of all onlookers when they dance into the judging ring. They are often well below the maximum height mentioned, yet as a rule they are thoroughly representative of their kind. The evils sometimes incidental to bantamising are not apparent in them, and they have the further advantage of being vigorous and hardy. They also have all the intelligence of the larger dogs.

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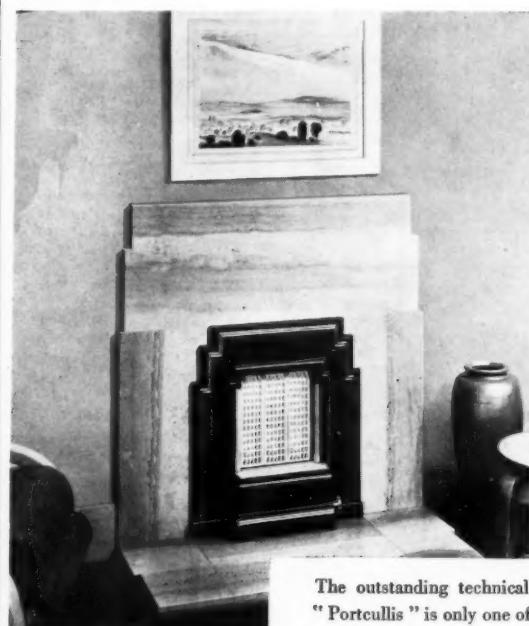
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MRS. EDWARD JOHN WARD

Mrs. Ward was married in 1934 to Captain E. J. S. Ward, Royal Horse Guards, elder son of the Hon. Sir John Hubert Ward who died recently. Before her marriage Mrs. Ward was Miss Susan Corbett, elder daughter of Mr. G. R. J. Corbett, D.S.O.; she has a little son and daughter.

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE CENTENARY OF PHOTOGRAPHY, by Charles Harvard	5
FARMING RESTORED: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS, by Christopher Turner	7
SEA UNICORNS, by Douglas Carruthers	9
A CASUAL COMMENTARY: THE CHRISTMAS-CARD GAME	10
FAIR HUNTS AND THEIR COUNTRIES: THE WORCESTERSHIRE, by William Fawcett	11
SCOTTISH PAINTING AT BURLINGTON HOUSE	14
LONDON ENTERTAINMENT, by George Marsden	18
BOOKS AND AUTHORS: SIDE-LIGHTS ON HISTORY—A Review by Ralph Edwards; OTHER REVIEWS	19
ACHEON HOUSE, EDINBURGH: THE RESTORATION OF AN OLD MANSION, by Marie W. Stuart	20
SMOLIN V. TROUT: SOME CONSIDERATIONS AND COMPARISONS, by J. Arthur Hutton	22
A FISHERMAN'S DIARY, by Roy Beddington	23
OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE SKI-RACES, 1938, by Ivan C. Strutt	24
CORRESPONDENCE	25
The Euston Arch; The Rabbits Bill (W. H. Buckley); Birling Gap (W. R. Edwards); Coarse Fish (C. F. Walker); The Old Town Hall, Wrexham (R. Stewart-Brown); A Berkshire Manor House (E. T. Long); King Canute's Horns (G. B. Wood); A Cornish Superstition (R. D. Evans); A Devoted Foster-mother (E. A. Litten); Pigeons in the Gale (E. W. Forster); Peculiar Migration Movement of Wrens in North Lancashire (H. W. Robinson).	xxv
GOLF BY BERNARD DARWIN: ANNALS OF A GREAT LINKS	xxv
THE SPRING HANDICAP ENTRIES	xxv
THE ESTATE MARKET	xxvi
ENERGY IN THE COUNTRY HOUSE: XVIII—THE ALL-ELECTRIC HOUSE, by J. V. Brittain	xxviii
THE AUTOMOBILE WORLD, by the Hon. Maynard Greville	xxx
WINTER SPORTS IN NORWAY	xxxii
WOMAN TO WOMAN, by the Hon. Theodora Benson	xxxiv
FASHION FAIR, by Frances Lovell	xxxvii
WINTER IN THE GARDEN: METHODS OF PLANT PROTECTION, by G. C. Taylor	xli
"Country Life" Crossword No. 467, page xx.	

EDITORIAL NOTICE.—Contributions submitted to the Editor of COUNTRY LIFE should be typewritten and, wherever possible, accompanied by photographs of outstanding merit. Fiction is not required. The Editor does not undertake to return unsuitable material if it is not accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

COUNTRY EDUCATION

THE Spens Report on Secondary Education—as it may well be called after the Chairman of the Committee responsible for it, who is the recipient of a knighthood in the New Year Honours—is a highly readable volume, scholarly in treatment and generally agreed to be very sound in its recommendations. The more far-reaching of these will be widely discussed for some time and are too detailed even to summarise here beyond saying that they are directed towards bringing the education provided by grammar and secondary schools into closer alignment with the needs of to-day without sacrificing the many excellent traditional elements. Among the most important recommendations are the revision of the School Certificate examination so that it may be controlled by the new curriculum instead of *vice versa*, as hitherto; the establishment of a new type of technical high school equivalent to grammar schools but "providing a more realistic and scientific curriculum"; and a general broadening of the scope of all secondary education to include more English (language and history), two foreign languages—of which one may be Latin—and a greater attention to the arts.

From the countryman's point of view the section on Country Grammar Schools is one of the most interesting—and sound. In the immediate past many country schoolmasters have regarded it as their duty, in order to broaden their pupils' minds, to give a definitely "anti-vocational" bias to their teaching, which has greatly accelerated the "drift to the towns." The Report, while disapproving any deviation from normal curriculum in country schools during the first two years, recommends, after that period, an increase in "rural colour" to the extent, in some, of a definite "agricultural bias." Though no more than a

sixth of country grammar school boys may normally take up farming, evidence was given that as many as half may in one way or another be afterwards connected with agriculture. Sir John Russell told the Committee of the success attained in a few schools where a garden has been linked up with actual tests and research, and the Report is strongly in favour both of practical work with gardens and livestock regarded as "outdoor laboratories," and of pupils making "local surveys" of the history and development of their neighbourhood. In addition to advocating the wider study of biology, it is shown that the increasing mechanisation of agriculture enables elementary engineering to be added to the craft training that teaches boys to "do a workmanlike job," while courses for girls are recommended in dairy work and preserves; to which we would see added cooking. These, together with many other of the Report's best recommendations, could be put into effect without awaiting the heavy expenditure and large reorganisation involved by the more far-reaching but equally desirable reforms in secondary education generally.

CLEARING THE LINES

GOOD many of us must have been at least mildly excited when, a week or two before Christmas, on entering our Pullman car—or whatever lowlier part of the train we usually inhabit—we first saw reprints (scarcely distinguishable from "pulls") of a *Times* leader, lavishly scattered about the compartment. Such a genteel method of proclaiming the justice of their cause seemed, in these strident days, to show an amazing faith on the part of the railways in the public's sense of fair play. This is not the place for a dissertation on the ethics of propaganda, but it did at least suggest that the great railways thought they had a good case and were content to leave it to the verdict of common sense, instead of relying on a succession of staccato shrieks and blatant re-assertions. Since then they themselves have taken to the megaphone, as it were, and newspapers, hoardings and pamphlets reinforce and re-echo their appeal—on a scale probably unprecedented since Kitchener's Armies were raised. But it is still the appeal to reason, and as such the public, at any rate, will be content to judge it. There may be some alive—though there cannot be many—who remember the days when the early railroad legislation was hammered out in a political atmosphere of some acerbity. It was natural in those days that safeguards of every sort and kind should be elaborated to protect the public against the oppressive exercise of a new sort of monopoly. Hence the incredible complication of schedules and restrictions which gradually grew up and which the railways now wish to be rid of. The original application of the railways did not seek to disguise the fact that, underlying it, was their difficulty in making their transport services pay in the face of modern road competition; and nobody was surprised when the "road interests" at once took a hand in the fray and produced a heavy list of hardships and restrictions of their own, much in the spirit of a small boy putting in for a share of the other boy's hypothetical bun. There have always, of course, been these two separate problems to consider—the conflicting interests of carriers and public and the conflicting interests among carriers themselves. The present position is that the Government having referred the railways' application to the Transport Advisory Council, Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen has arranged for a series of meetings between the railway directors, the road-transport interests, the coastwise shipping, the dock-harbours, and the canal interests. At these meetings it is hoped to produce a series of agreed recommendations. This sounds a good procedure from the public point of view. Never was there a time when, from the point of view of national defence, as well as of national prosperity, we depended so much on an efficient and well conducted system of transport. The citizen is not interested in quarrels between railway and road carriers as to who ought to be allowed to make the most profit out of his unavoidable necessities. What he is concerned about is that, at a time like the present, all those involved should pursue a policy of co-operation in the national interest.

COUNTRY NOTES



The Prime Minister shooting with Lord Swinton

FARMING RESTORED

IN this issue of COUNTRY LIFE we publish the concluding article in which Mr. Christopher Turnor sums up the series appearing in these pages during the past two months called "Farming Restored." That series has provided, at any rate, much food for thought. Assuming that agricultural production could be generally expanded to the advantage not only of farmers but of the entire nation, what commodities should be selected for expansion? This is one of the most interesting questions with which Mr. Turnor's eminent contributors have been asked to deal, but they have, as he says, hesitated to express an opinion without further knowledge as to repercussions on industry, on agriculture itself, on foreign trade, on shipping, on finance, and on defence. Lord Addison alone is content to trust to instinct and common sense. This all suggests the need for that authoritative investigation for which Mr. Turnor calls. How farming can be restored, what land is worth reclaiming, what crops it would be wise to increase, on what terms capital should be made available, and what agricultural products should receive protection: these and many other questions, as he says, cannot be answered out of hand. On the other hand, most of the information required is available in the pigeon-holes of Government departments, research stations, and county agricultural departments, and a small tribunal could take the evidence and issue their report within a few months. The Central Landowners' Association have also asked for something in the nature of a departmental commission to assess all the salient facts as speedily as possible, and before Parliament rose at Christmas Mr. Morrison promised that, so far as the Ministry is concerned, the weeks before the House meets again in February should be devoted to some such survey. This is a step in the right direction, though the personnel required for the ultimate tribunal should be drawn from outside Whitehall Place.

AGRICULTURAL POLITICS IN 1938

MEANWHILE, as Mr. Morrison looks back over 1938 he cannot be particularly pleased with its record. It is not his fault, however, that the promises which he made last spring were some of them impossible to carry out, or that in a most unfortunate political atmosphere the faults of the Milk Industry Bill were allowed to obscure its far from negligible merits. He has certainly done well in the Pigs Marketing Act to reconstitute the Development Board with greater independence and much wider powers of control. The financial arrangements provide an ingenious scheme for guaranteeing the price of all contract pigs and, on the whole, the Government plan seems to provide a reasonable—and not too extravagant—basis for the continuance of production for the factories. The Minister may incidentally reflect, though the thought will not be of much consolation to him, that the very principle of an independent controlling

Commission which was finally adopted in the Pigs Marketing Act is the main rock upon which the Milk Industry Bill came to shipwreck. As for the future, the chief matter on which the Government have still to make up their minds is their attitude towards the resolution of the Conservative Agricultural Committee that "in the national interest . . . the State should guarantee standard prices to producers to cover the average costs of efficient production; and that those standard prices should be fixed from time to time by an independent tribunal." Until they have come to a decision on this matter the Government will not, in the present circumstances, get much "further." It is interesting, incidentally, to realise the unanimity with which the contributors to "Farming Restored" support the idea that it has now become the business of the Government to guarantee prices, to decide how best the money can be raised, and to safeguard markets from undue price fluctuation by methods suitable to the circumstances and the commodity involved.

A PRAYER FOR MIDDLE AGE

Lord God, I do not ask for ease,
A playground life and luxuries,
For more of health than sets me free
From warfare with infirmity,
Or even for fame, to hold a pen
That lays a spell on hearts of men.
I ask for something simpler far,
Yet hard, as all things simple are :
I ask for undiminished zest
And lasting passion in Life's quest ;
The power to feel the thrill of things,
To mount upon imaginings
And keep Love's hourly novelties
A realm above eroding seas ;
A mind that boredom never knows,
But, marching forward, gaily goes
Discovering interest in all
That moves on Earth, both great and small—
Richly with solitude content
Yet welcoming hours with comrades spent.
I would be as a sounding board
Reverberant with the human chord,
Harmonic to the lute of joy,
Until Life's end at heart a boy !

GORELL.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

THE list of New Year Honours, as usual, touches life at so many different points that it is only possible to mention a few of the recipients. A new O.M. is always interesting, and this time there are two, both obviously worthy. The Navy is once more represented in the person of Lord Chatfield, who has borne the heavy responsibility of First Sea Lord for over five years; and Sir James Jeans joins the select body of men of science headed by the Master of Trinity. Sir Laurence Philipps and Mr. Cecil Harmsworth each becomes the third of three brothers to receive a peerage, an honour to which Sir Maurice Hankey was also clearly predestined. The knighthood conferred on Professor Stapledon is a well-merited acknowledgement of his far-sighted and inspiring pioneer work on the reclamation of grassland. The children of the country must feel themselves agreeably and vicariously honoured in two instances. Mr. Robert Mayer, who has done good work in organising concerts for young people, is a knight; and the lady who enjoyed for years an anonymous glory as "Aunt Sophy" is disclosed as Miss Cecil Dixon, M.B.E. It may be doubted whether children will have quite so much sympathy with one who has rendered "services to calligraphy," but grown-ups, at any rate, who wish that their indecipherable correspondents had learned better, will deem Mr. Edward Johnston's C.B.E. well deserved.

FLOOD AND DROUGHT

THOUGH the thaw set in after Christmas so suddenly, it proved to be gradual enough for the water to be carried off without causing any serious floods. This paradoxical result is probably in part due to the absorption of

a large proportion of the moisture by the soil, in which the watertable was still below normal in most districts. Nothing so fills up the underground reservoirs as a gradual thaw, and even a rapid one is effective if the ground is not hard frozen or already saturated. Later this month we propose to publish the findings of a thorough survey of the problem of the country's water supply, from both the agricultural and urban points of view. February Fill-dyke is still to come which caused all the devastating floods on the coast of Norfolk last year. The new works at Horsey, though four or five years will be needed to complete the full programme, are far enough advanced to prevent any repetition of last winter's inroads. The East Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board, in consultation with the borough engineers of Yarmouth and Lowestoft, has embarked on permanent coast defence works, four and a half miles in extent and costing half a million pounds, which, when complete, will face the dunes with a sea-resisting skin of concrete bags reinforced with steel and 27ft. high. Groynes have been constructed running out to sea where the breach occurred.

ELM DISEASE

ACCORDING to the latest Report received by the Forestry Commission, the virulent elm disease which, during the past ten years, has either killed or marred the appearance of thousands of the most beautiful trees in the English countryside, has received a check. Fewer trees, particularly in the Eastern and Midland Counties, showed active symptoms of disease, but, unfortunately, this slackening is probably only temporary, for, although a similar check occurred in 1932, the disease afterwards resumed its steady advance. The elm has been a favourite tree for planting roadsides and avenues, but, owing to the risk of trees contracting the disease, they are now seldom planted for this purpose. There is no known cure for elm disease. It is so prevalent that eradication by felling affected trees has long been out of the question. The report does not, however, foresee the eventual disappearance of the elm from the countryside, but only that it is likely to lose the dominance that it has held in the past. Hope for the future lies partly in the possibility of raising a resistant strain from those trees which have shown themselves to be immune from the disease. Meanwhile the disease may be expected to decrease as the supply of very susceptible trees diminishes. A slowing up of the disease from this cause has already been noted in Essex and Hertfordshire. It has been shown that the Jersey elm (*Ulmus stricta Wheatleyi*) is more resistant than other varieties. As regards the treatment of diseased trees, if the elm bark beetle, which is responsible for spreading the disease, has attacked the trunk the tree must be felled and sold at once. But elms may recover from the disease if the attack is not so severe as to kill them outright in a single season.

"PROVISIONS NEEDED FOR PLANTERS"

THE most interesting Christmas card we have received —we should be much aggrieved if it did not take a trick in the game described in to-day's *Casual Commentary*—comes from a friend in America. It is a printed list, headed "Proportion of Provisions needfull for such as intend to plant themselves in New England for one whole year, collected by the Adventurers, with the advice of the Planters." It was printed in 1630, and is taken from an original in the library of Lincoln Cathedral. "Victrall" heads the list and includes "Meale, one Hogshead; Malt, one hogshead; Beefe, one hundredweight; Porke pickled, 100, or Bacon 74 pound." The malt has an asterisk indicating "of which the poorer sort may spare to the greater part, if they can content themselves with water in the heat of summer, which is found by much experience to bee as wholesome & healthfull as beere." Evidently the seeds of Prohibition were sown by the Pilgrim Fathers. Six pairs of shoes and one of boots were to be taken, and twelve handkerchiefs, "which for the poorer sort may be of blew Callico; these in summer they use for bands." Follows a list of tools for a family of four or five persons, hardware for building, and arms, the value of the whole

provisions amounting to £17 7s. 9d. Of this, however, the poor could deduct the worth of £7 as not absolutely essential, since "they may (having meanes to take fish & fowle) live comfortably that want all the rest, Meale for bread only excepted, which is the staffe of life."

CATS AND KINGS

VERY different opinions have been expressed about puns. "A pun is a noble thing *per se*," wrote Charles Lamb to Coleridge. On the other hand, it was said—probably by Dennis and certainly not, as has been stated, by Dr. Johnson—that a man who could make a pun would pick a pocket. The Government of Iran sympathise so strongly with this latter view that they have broken off diplomatic relations with France. The cause was the caption "Sa Majesté le Chat" in a report of a cat show, and the joke was apparently deemed so good as to be copied by another newspaper. It is hard to judge of the exact merit of a play upon words in a foreign language, but this pun on "Chat" and "Shah" does not strike us as of any exceptional ingenuity. Neither, however, does it strike us as justifying any extreme measures. The Iranians have probably not had our advantages in being taught that a cat may look at a king. If they had, the calling of a king a cat would not have made the fur fly. It is sometimes the little stings that hurt the most, but this one can surely be healed.

THE OLD FLOWER-PRESS

To-day I found among some dusty books
A flower-press of many years ago,
And as I turned each yellowed page again,
(Fern-fronds had left their patterns) by full brooks
I walked in bygone Springs, after the snow
Had left the bracken dripping, as from rain.
Among some books I found the past, to-day—
Green, rolling meadows, churning overnight
A froth of dewy daisies, gold and white,
For making daisy-chains in early May.

Leaf-skeletons, and blanched and brittle flowers
Have made a diary of my childhood hours—
Curved hill, cupped hollow, country lane and glen
I searched and gathered from, when I was ten !

PAULINE HAVARD.

AN EPITAPH BY SHAKESPEARE

SIR WILLIAM DUGDALE, the herald and historian, noted in his *Visitation of Shropshire* in 1664 that the epitaph to Sir Thomas Stanley on his great tomb in Tong Church was "by William Shakespeare, the late famous Tragedian." In a recent paper to the Shropshire Archaeological Society Mrs. Arundell Esdaile publishes the "verses," examines the evidence for and against Dugdale's attribution, and concludes that Shakespeare almost certainly was their author. The more characteristic lines run :

This stonye Register is for his bones
His Fame is more perpetual than these stones . . .
Not monumental stone preserves our fame
Nor skye aspiring Piramids our name . . .
When all to times consumption shall be given
Stanley, for whom this stands, shall stand in Heaven.

Dugdale and Shakespeare were both Warwickshire men, and our knowledge of the authorship of Shakespeare's own monument is due to a note in Dugdale's diary. He is the more likely to have been well informed in this case, since it was part of a herald's duties at the time to be cognisant of epitaphs. The Stanley monument was erected in the last year of Shakespeare's life, and commemorates members of a family whom he knew well. Both as player and dramatist he had been associated with players patronised by two successive Earls of Derby. Some of the lines certainly have the Shakespeare ring, and can be paralleled with passages in the Sonnets, though, as Mrs. Esdaile justly observes, "passion spoke in the one case, a commission or request inspired the other."

THE CENTENARY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

THE camera has become almost an article of clothing. Every year new styles stand around in shop windows, new shapes, new colours, with new claims, some humped with their bellows open, others sitting neat and compactly efficient, and even the proletarian box variety with new embellishments of gun-metal or chromium. It is hard to strip one's mind enough to realise a time when they did not exist, when knowledge of the world was limited to memory of things seen and representations of them in paint or print. Portraiture was a sufficient offset to the uncompromising mirror in the early nineteenth century, when flattery was, after all, a harmless vice. If men and women wished to be immortalised they gaily trusted to the tact of the artist, or perhaps found refuge in the less committal silhouette.

The Victorian Age was getting slowly under way when, in the year 1839, a handful of pioneers began to produce miraculous pictures of the world and its inhabitants on scraps of metal or paper. Eyebrows were lifted unenthusiastically by some. It was trickery, they said. Some clever artist was counterfeiting nature in an attractive *grisaille*. That idea was soon blown away. The pictures were indeed "sun-pictures," as their makers had claimed them to be, produced by light and fixed there as if a looking-glass had arrested its image. Scientists pricked up their ears, artists saw their trade threatened, cynics sat back and smiled at this affront to vanity—the enthusiasts, of course, immediately said it was too wonderful and rivalled Rembrandt. A side-light on the camera was cast by a certain Miss Sheridan Carey, who wrote some verses "On seeing a Daguerreotype portrait of a Lady," followed by this slightly feline paragraph :

They, who, innocent of the attributes, pretend to youth, beauty, grace, and intellectual character, and to whom many years' close consultation of the glass has failed to dispel the "dear delusion," are ludicrously dismayed when they espouse their honest resemblances, and as they can in no wise be persuaded of the unpalatable fact that the Daguerreotype is infallible, they fall foul on it and denounce it with a heat and vindictiveness unspeakably amusing.

But the novelty of the thing won the day, and after the first flutter of amazement had died down, photography slowly and quietly entered the world's business, prying everywhere, noting everything, and adding another chapter to the feverish eclipse of time and distance which seems to be the major achievement of our age.

It is a curious thing that whenever a new invention is born on the earth, someone or other feels compelled to call down the



MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF LACOCK ABBEY, BY FOX TALBOT
Early Calotype, circa 1843

wrath of God upon it. With the fire-belching steam engine, or the Galilean insult to human vanity, it is understandable; but the comparatively meek arrival of photography might surely have been spared. However, it wasn't. In a contemporary number of the *Leipziger Anzeiger* appears the following dismal jeremiad : "To wish to fix fugitive reflections is not only an impossibility (as has been shown by very serious experiments made in Germany) but borders on sacrilege. God has created man in His Own image and no man-made machine is able to capture the image of God. It would be to betray immediately His Own eternal principles to permit a Frenchman in Paris to launch on the world such a diabolical invention."

Without going into many details of the early experimenters, one ought to insist that photography does not solely derive from the famous M. Daguerre, as so many people believe. The first photographs (in the true sense) were actually made by a Frenchman named Joseph-Nicéphore Niépce between 1816 and 1829. He subsequently met and went into partnership with Daguerre, and the latter brought about the modifications which made the business really practicable. The process was announced and examples of Daguerreotypy shown in January, 1839, and the secret divulged to the public in August. But the trouble with Daguerreotypes was that they could not be multiplied. Every photograph was unique in itself.

It was in the charming and far more romantic surroundings of Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire that a young Englishman, Henry Fox Talbot, quite independently began experimenting with photography, and succeeded in producing as effective a result as Daguerre. Talbot, along with the rest of the world, heard about the Frenchman's discovery and promptly told the Royal Society of his own work. But the important difference was that Talbot had hit on the method of making his negatives on paper so that any number of positives could be printed off through them. Modern photography, evolving through the stages of collodion and finally the dry-plate processes, is the direct descendant of the Talbotype, or, as it was re-named, the Calotype.

English photography for long retained the pleasantly leisured attitude of its pioneer, and although abroad there were men who interpreted portraits, landscape and seascape with great feeling, they did not possess the peculiarly tranquil tradition of this country. Talbot himself did not take much part in the work after the early years, but he left a small number of delightful conversation pieces, intimate, unaffected and, in the best sense, picturesque. The most famous of the "Old Masters" was, of course, Octavius Hill, who, with his chemist assistant Adamson, was responsible for the finest output of photographs of his own or any



"THE THAMES AT IFFLEY MILL," BY JOSEPH CUNDALL
1859 or earlier



"SUNSHINE AND SHADE," BY F. R. PICKERSGILL, A.R.A.
1859 or earlier



MR. RAREY AND CRUISER, BY CALDESI AND MONTECCHI, 1858



YARMOUTH SANDS, BY PAUL MARTIN, 1892
An early snapshot

The illustration of Fox Talbot's photograph is taken from the original in the Science Museum. The others are from original prints in the Victoria and Albert Museum Library

other time. Later on, in the 'sixties, the name of Mrs. Julia Margaret Cameron took English photography almost to the same heights, but what one feels as so pleasant in this country is the large number of men who quietly continued what might be called the "country tradition." Two of the prints reproduced here are typical of this work. They were both taken about 1859, and published in a small collection called "The Sunbeam," edited by P. H. Delamotte. The group called "Sunshine and Shade," by F. R. Pickersgill, A.R.A., is particularly interesting as it was done by a popular portrait painter who, like Octavius Hill, turned his hand to photography. The "Thames at Iffley Mill" was made by a Mr. Joseph Cundall, and has nothing to fear in comparison with any modern "artistic" photograph.

Occasionally the early photographers made excursions into sport and what the mid-Victorians persisted in calling "facetiae." The group of Mr. Rarey and Cruiser appears innocent enough at first sight. But before this blissful portrait was taken, Cruiser was no mouse. Owned by Lord Dorchester, he was the horse problem of his day. Described by a correspondent of the *Illustrated London News* as "this tigerish son of Venison [his sire]," he was "a noble creature to look at, but a fiend incarnate, whose malice and fury have rendered him a terror to the circle of his acquaintance, who would scream with rage for ten minutes, would tear up the ground with his teeth, and would snap iron bars, and as his keeper (the only name for a wild beast's custodian) remarked, smash up stalls into lucifer matches. No groom could approach him, and he had to be dressed by the aid of a long pole to which the curry-comb was affixed, and a great iron muzzle was placed upon him by stratagem when it was necessary to bring him out." Then the story cheers up, for a Mr. Rarey appears from the United States. "Happily for Cruiser," continues the writer with some presumption, "Mr. Rarey arrives, and the animal is confided to him. Mr. Rarey returns to town with the dreadful Cruiser trotting behind a dog-cart, and 'a child might scathless stroke his brow.' It was touching to see him look at his old muzzle, which was placed on him to show what he had been—his glance was almost reproachful, like the boy's look at Dr. Arnold when he spoke sharply, 'I am sure I am doing the best I can.'" The photograph illustrated here shows him in 1858, after he had been received back into the circle of his acquaintance.

It is a far cry from the expansive days of the Victorian era to the world of photography with which we are now familiar. But it makes an interesting contrast. If we take the year 1871, famous for the Franco-Prussian War but for our purposes more famous for the introduction of the gelatine dry-plate, we see the promise of almost all modern developments in photography. Within a few years came the celluloid film, the cinema, the hand-camera, the X-ray and the colour plate. Things could at last be photographed on the move, and in all weathers. The time soon arrived when everybody could buy an odd-looking box and go around recording how the world looked and behaved. Mr. Paul Martin, happily still alive, was one of the first men to realise the possibilities of the new portable camera. He is really the pioneer of what has now been dubbed "Candid Photography." In the photograph illustrated, a fine piece of *genre*, Mr. Martin told me that no one objected to him taking the shot, for the simple reason that no one knew what he was doing!

By the turn of the century photography was entering into nearly every sphere of life. Crime, with the photographing of finger-prints and other "evidence," quickly made use of the new science; photography made possible the picture paper and the illustrated book; it peered through the microscope and noted things the eye could scarcely see; aerial photography arrived in earnest (the first aerial photograph was, by the way, by Nadar in a balloon in 1858); medicine has benefited in many branches. With infra-red photography the camera can see many miles farther than the human eye, and photographs can now be taken of bullets emerging from rifles, and even of the effect of a smell. Whether we like it or not—and there is much to be said against this, and, in fact, all inventions—photography has indeed invaded the heaven above, the earth beneath, and the waters under the earth.

CHARLES HARVARD.

FARMING RESTORED

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS BY CHRISTOPHER TURNOR

WHY AND WHERE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION IS WANTED

IN the article with which I opened this series on Farming Restored, I said that there were many of us who believed that agricultural production could be expanded to the advantage, not only of farmers, but of the entire nation. Because we agriculturists do not want to force our aims upon townsmen unless they are mutually advantageous, many of us consider that there ought to be an enquiry into the place which agriculture should hold in the national economy. The Government appear to think that farmers might regret such an enquiry, that it might alter the balance of agriculture and lead to a revision of the assistance now being given. I think farmers are prepared to take that chance: they do not want agriculture kept alive as a curious survival of a past age by a system of subsidies or doles. If the farming industry is worth keeping alive, it is worth rejuvenating so that it can take its place alongside other industries.

HOME VERSUS OVERSEAS MARKETS

I said in my introduction that I hoped the writers in the series would answer some of my questions. They have dealt with the practicability of increase in several main commodities and suggested some methods to that end, but, with the exception of Lord Addison, they have hesitated to say that we *ought* to increase production in this or that commodity, because they are not prepared to answer the questions: What would be the repercussions—

- (a) on industry?
- (b) on agriculture itself?
- (c) on foreign trade?
- (d) on trade with the Dominions and Colonies?
- (e) on shipping?
- (f) on finance (with regard to slumps)?
- (g) on defence?

This is highly significant. Labour, "originally," as Lord Addison says, "a town party," has not the answer to these questions any more than any other party (it would greatly simplify their planning if they had), but they are prepared to trust to instinct and common sense in forming their conclusion that increased production is the right course from the national point of view.

The National Government has, alas! been slow to give up the economic fashion of the early 'twenties when iron, steel, coal and cotton were regarded as our staple industries and it was thought that all other industries must be subservient to the export of these four commodities. From the point of view of employment, as well as of agriculture, this view is out of date. It is beginning to be realised that we must either transfer the unemployed in those trades geographically or start new industries near their homes. Our staple industries have gone the way of *laissez faire*: it is now our secondary industries that count. Similarly, now that our exports are only 10 per cent. of our total national income it is our home market that is the most valuable.

Let me, however, sum up the proposals of the writers in this series.

NUTRITION

Sir John Orr says: ". . . if we are going to have a national plan for agriculture" (in parenthesis, to anyone who asks "Why have a plan?" I would quote Lord Baldwin: "Unless the democracies are prepared to make the same sacrifices as the totalitarian States, the democracies will go down") "we must first determine the food requirements of the 45,000,000 inhabitants of our country." The problem to Sir John is not primarily an agricultural one—this is a dominant note through the series: the problem is not in a water-tight compartment labelled "Agriculture"—to Sir John the health and proper dietary of the nation is the basis of the problem. To him it is immaterial whether the increased amount of food available is produced at home or abroad, except in the case of milk, fruit, vegetables, etc., where the nutritional value is enhanced by their being produced at home. But as a patriot, he does not see why the British farmer should not have a share in the necessary increase, provided the cost is within the means of the consumer. The system he proposes is a series of National Marketing Boards, run as public utility companies, guaranteeing a remunerative price to the producer and, by taking the profits of processing (eked out, if necessary, with some Government money), keeping the price within the consumer's means. This is on the lines of the proposals in Mr. Harold Macmillan's book, "The Middle Way," as well as of the Government's Milk Bill (the defects of which obscured its considerable merits). My criticism of both the Bill and Sir John's proposals is that they do not conform to the principle laid down by the 1931 Marketing Act—that the control of the industry should be by the industry.

PLANNING BY CONTRACTS

Coming to Sir John Russell, he divides the problem into two parts—the aims of agricultural planning, and the methods

of attaining them. We have not the simple task of aiming at self-sufficiency, as in the U.S.S.R., Germany, and Italy. "The best kind of plan for British agriculture," says Sir John, "is one aiming at a maximum contribution to the general wealth of the nation. . . . It is often argued that some import of food is needed to keep alive our export trade, deemed necessary for the life of the nation. This may be true, but it is unlikely to be equally true for all imports. The essential preliminary to a plan would be an enquiry to discover which foodstuffs could best be developed here, and to what extent this could be done with the minimum loss of total national trade."

Sir John's is a statesmanlike view of the problem. He realises that for us it is not yet a question of "guns or butter"—we are still in a position to decide how many guns and how much butter. For us political economy still exists as a compound entity. One course may be politic but not economic, another economic but not politic: Sir John thinks in terms of what is politically economic. But it is for the Government and the nation to say what agriculture's politically economic part is to be.

Whatever the degree of increased production and in whatever commodities, Sir John advocates the Contract System for securing it. As he says, this system works well in the cases of wheat, sugar beet, and milk (though the wheat contract system is veiled by a subsidy).

By the way, I particularly like what Sir John says about wheat: "It is true that the price paid is above that at which wheat could be bought in other countries, but so is the contract price for building a house above what would be possible if the builder could import cheap labour from overseas and buy his material tax-free in the cheapest overseas market."

INCREASES OF MEAT PRODUCTION AND PROPER CONTROL OF STORAGE

Mr. Easterbrook and Mr. Holt Wilson deal with the possibilities of increasing our home-grown supplies of meat, and both provide figures that show such increase to be altogether practicable. Increase in beef and mutton would of course require capital expenditure, since it would be based on the improvement of our grassland by drainage, ploughing-up and re-seeding, etc. But it would be a good long-term investment, not only from the livestock point of view, but from the angle of increased soil fertility.

Mr. Easterbrook considers that, with proper abattoirs, we could probably produce beef to compete in price with the Argentine, but it is not possible to say for certain until the experimental abattoirs are under weigh.

Mr. Easterbrook stresses the importance of time of entry of imports. The Commodity Councils advocated by the Empire Producers' Conference, working in close conjunction with the Import Duties Advisory Committee, should be able to regulate this.

A similar factor which Mr. Easterbrook does not mention is storage and release therefrom (this applies also, of course, to cereal storage). Properly used, storage should be able to smooth out slumps and surpluses. With storage on its present scale, due to the Government's defensive reserves, the release and replacement of stored commodities requires judicious timing. In private hands, there is nothing to stop storage being most mischievously used.

In regard to pigs, I am not sure that I see eye to eye with Mr. Holt Wilson. I agree that we could and should increase our pig population considerably. His figures are interesting where he shows that "if every county were as densely populated with pigs as Suffolk and Cornwall, the pig population would be 8,800,000, or sufficient to fulfil about 95 per cent. of our total requirements." I agree with him in approving of the protection the new Act gives to the home producer and processor against fluctuations in the price of their raw materials in return for their rationalising the industry, and with him I deplore that control of margins should not have been extended to the retailer. I agree, too, with the importance of pig manure as a fertiliser. Where I am not in accord with him is over the importation of feeding-stuffs. To my mind, to increase it proportionately with our increase in pig production would be to spend on the swings what we save on the roundabouts. I feel sure that experiments now being made will show that pigs can be made far less dependent on imported feeding-stuffs by a proper use of potatoes, skimmed milk, whey, and even dried grass (the experiments are, admittedly, in an early stage, but already it seems that this will be the conclusion).

Increased pig production raises the question of our trade with Denmark, which is of great political and economic—as well as sentimental—importance to us. It is just as foolish to say "Never mind Denmark! We're going to raise all our pigs!" as it is to

say we must not rear one more pig for fear of damaging Anglo-Danish trade. The use of the Contract System on an international scale should prevent us both from losing our friends and injuring our internal economy.

NATIONALISATION VERSUS OCCUPYING-OWNERSHIP

With Lord Addison's article we come to what is at once the most controversial and the most encouraging in the series. Controversial, because it introduces the idea of nationalising the land; encouraging, because it shows how near the Labour point of view is coming to that of other parties and inspires the hope that in the not too distant future agriculture may be taken out of party politics. Possibly Labour will accept as a compromise the Land Commission (on the lines of the Forestry Commission) suggested by Sir John Russell in "The Planning of Agriculture."

Under nationalisation, the State would no doubt get a better rental from the land than landowners have done in the past fifty years, since they would see that farmers had remunerative prices and were able to pay their rents. "In 1937 the average net farm income was down 20 per cent. compared with 1936; in 1936 it had been 23 per cent. up on 1935 and in 1935 2 per cent. down on 1933. This," continues the PEP broadsheet from which I quote these figures, "is some indication of the remarkable fluctuations in the income of the farming community over a period of years, when the industrial community was registering steady advances." There may be feeling against private ownership in some quarters, but if these adverse conditions are remembered, it would only be fair to wait and see how private ownership functions under proper conditions and with prices remunerative.

But who in fact is the best owner of land from the point of view of the whole community? Under what kind of ownership will the land make its maximum contribution to the wealth and welfare of the nation? I walk delicately on to the highly controversial ground of "owning the means of production," but I think it is a fair generalisation that the craftsman likes to own, and works better with, his own tools: the chef, his knife; the artist, his brush; the cabinet-maker, his chisels. Mass-production does not call for craftsmanship—a creative artist in a Ford factory is a *saboteur*, a Charlie Chaplin. For psychological reasons, I am certain that the most healthy tendency in land tenure would be towards occupying-ownership. It has been successful in every country, Socialist or Fascist, where it has developed. Only the absence of co-operation and the lack of proper credit facilities have prevented it from going ahead in this country.

Nationalisation—quite apart from whether one likes the principle of it or not—has the great danger of becoming bureaucratic. "Farming from Whitehall" is hopeless (as well as being a great deal more expensive). Without the proper personnel, Whitehall cannot decentralise administration. At present there is not the personnel—our system of agricultural education is not designed to produce the "agronomes" of Continental countries.

THE NEED FOR A FOOD AUTHORITY

I agree with Lord Addison "that it must be advantageous to the nation as a whole if the countryside is prosperous and more people find healthy and useful employment therein, and that good land shall be as fully used as it properly can to produce food. This will benefit the towns also, because the more prosperous agriculture is, the better market will it provide for the towns' manufactures and the less will their unemployment be aggravated by the perpetual drift into them of labour from the country. We are members one of another."

Further, I entirely agree with Lord Addison that only by relating supply and demand—stabilising prices—can the farmer function and the labourer receive a fair wage. This must be the cornerstone of any successful agricultural policy, as the Central Landowners' Association, in their memoranda on agricultural policy, have consistently pointed out since 1925.

Lord Addison's suggestion that "The Direction of Policy with regard to prices and supplies must belong to a National, independent and competent body" is very much on the same lines as the recommendations of a sub-committee (of which I was Chairman) of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, issued in November, 1931. This committee advocated the creation of a national Food Authority, working in close conjunction with an Import Duties Advisory Committee, controlling all imports, industrial and agricultural: it was felt that the only way of relating supply and demand was by having control of the *whole supply*, home-produced and imported.

ECONOMIC ENQUIRY AND LAND SURVEY

Coming now to Mr. Gibbard's article, I have already referred to his two main planks, a price insurance scheme and the commodity councils recommended by the Sydney Conference—that is to say, an extension of the contract system to the producers of the Empire. I regard the work done by our National Farmers' Union at the Sydney Conference as of outstanding importance—it may well prove a landmark in the agricultural history of the Empire.

Mr. Gibbard refers to my plea that we should ascertain by how much we could increase production. For this purpose he suggests that the County Agricultural Committees should make a survey. But to my mind there are *two* things that are needed: first, a committee of investigation (not a Royal Commission) to

consider what part agriculture should play in the economy of the nation; secondly, a survey of the land, county by county. For the latter, I entirely agree that the County Agricultural Committees, through their staffs, are the right agents. But it is work of national importance and should be financed by the Treasury and not out of the rates. (Although this work would only be of a temporary character, County Agricultural Committees ought to play a much larger part in the development of agriculture than they do at present.)

The survey would show the amount of derelict and semi-dерelict land in each county (and in some counties the amount would be startling); point out the physical (as opposed to financial) reasons why it is derelict; register what is properly wheat land, what is properly barley land, to check growing wheat on barley land, as is now often done to earn the wheat subsidy; schedule the second and third rate grassland that could be improved by draining and the use of Professor Stapledon's methods.

In regard to Mr. Gibbard's suggested Standing Joint Committee to arrest the drift from the land, if the findings of the committee of investigation which I advocate warrant putting agriculture on a sound, paying basis, the drift from the land will automatically cease.

RESTITUTION OF "MANURIAL RIGHTS"

Sir Albert Howard calls for land improvement on a far larger scale. His view—with which I agree, but which will, I fear, be considered Utopian—is that "health will replace economics when questions relating to the land come up for consideration." He goes beyond Sir John Orr in his nutritional demands. Sir John says: "If the object of the Government is to provide sufficient food to enable the inhabitants of this country to lead healthy lives, then the national food supply must be increased." Sir Albert not only wants to increase the quantity of *human* food but in order that it may be of proper standard, he wants to improve the quality of *plant* food. That is to say, he considers the fundamental problem is the improvement of the soil itself—making it healthy and fertile. "A fertile soil," he says, "rich in humus needs nothing more in the way of manure: the crop requires no protection from pests: it looks after itself. . . . Animals like cattle at once respond to soil fertility; they develop bloom, resist disease, and yield high-quality meat, milk and milk products."

I have always felt that the disastrous increase of cattle disease in the last few decades was largely due to excessive use of artificials and the substitution of bought concentrates for natural food, grown on the farm. Who can say to what extent our many human ailments are due to the increasingly artificial methods of food production? It is certainly a matter that calls for research and experiment.

It is too much to hope that the Government will adopt Sir Albert's new basis, lock, stock, and barrel, but I hope they will go so far with him as to see that it is farming *capital*, not merely income, that needs restoring. I do not want to belittle what the distinguished writers in this series have said about the contract system and guaranteed prices for agricultural products—these are essential. But it will take years and years—decades—of farming under a remunerative price system to enable farmers to put to reserve the money they need for *capital* expenditure on the reclamation of derelict and semi-derelict land. If the general condition of the land were not so bad and if the international situation were easier, I would have nothing to say against such a gradual restoration of capital to agriculture. But I regard the matter as urgent.

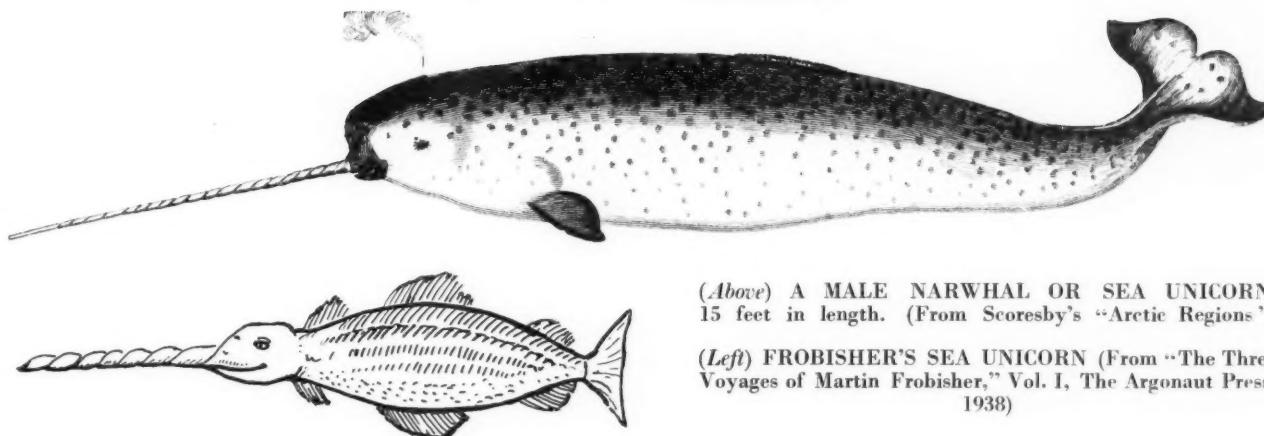
When the National Government took office seven years ago they evidently regarded the agricultural problem as serious—certainly no Government have ever introduced so many well-intentioned measures for any one industry. But the approach, though reasonable, is proved by agriculture's position to-day to have been wrong. A marketing scheme here, a subsidy there, a protective duty elsewhere—the system of trial and error, the Government feeling their way—has not worked: it has simply upset the balance within the industry. What is needed is a comprehensive policy which applies to every branch of the industry. The Agricultural Act (1937) is a step in the right direction, dealing with land fertility by aids to drainage schemes and subsidies for the purchase of lime and basic. But it does not go far enough.

A SMALL ENQUIRY TRIBUNAL

Either the countryside must be left for bankrupt farmers to let tumble down to indifferent grass—very nice for hikers from the towns, but nothing else—or it must be made to take its place in the life of the nation, supporting a flourishing rural population, feeding a well-nourished urban population, the home of an industry as vital, as profitable, and as necessary as any other. There is no doubt in my mind that agriculture should be so rejuvenated. If there is still any urban voter who believes that agriculture should be sacrificed on the altar of our export trade, I believe an authoritative investigation would prove him mistaken. In any case, how farming can be restored, what land is worth reclaiming, what crops it would be wise to increase, on what terms capital should be made available, what agricultural products should receive protection—these and many other questions cannot be answered out of hand. Most of the information is available in the pigeon-holes of Government departments, research stations, and County Agricultural Departments. A small tribunal could take the evidence and issue their report within a few months. For too long the Government have been working in the dark.

SEA UNICORNS

By DOUGLAS CARRUTHERS



(Above) A MALE NARWHAL OR SEA UNICORN. 15 feet in length. (From Scoresby's "Arctic Regions")

(Left) FROBISHER'S SEA UNICORN (From "The Three Voyages of Martin Frobisher," Vol. I, The Argonaut Press, 1938)

ALTHOUGH zoologists no longer allow us to indulge our fancy in the existence of a beautiful white palfrey with a single upright horn—the unicorn of legend—yet they cannot deny us a mammal with a single tusk—the narwhal. In early days the narwhal's tusk was traded as the veritable unicorn, and was esteemed a treasure suitable for kings. One particular tusk, which Martin Frobisher, the Elizabethan pirate-explorer, brought home, became famous as the "Horn of Windsor," and was "reserved as a jewel, by the Queen Majesty's commandment in her wardrobe of Robes."

If in Elizabethan times a narwhal's tusk was considered of great value and unique interest, it was naturally an object of even greater veneration in the Dark Ages, when the very existence of the Arctic regions was still unknown. No wonder those single ivory wands, which Norsemen very occasionally brought back with them from the frozen seas, and sold for untold gold to the houses of the very great and very rich, excited such enthusiasm. A haze of mystery surrounded them. How and where could such grotesque things grow, and what was the nature of the beast that produced them?

The early finders, realising the full value of their discovery, kept the source of their supply in their own hands, and regulated the output, with the result that unicorn "horns" in olden days were few and rare—only the great ecclesiastical foundations, the courts of emperors and of kings possessed them. They were objects of utility as well as of worth, for they were supposed to have the magic power of protecting their owners from violent death, or from more subtle death by poison.

Without going into the wonderful and beautiful legend of the unicorn, the only concrete example of the single "horn" which man could produce was this twisted tusk of the narwhal, and surely this was strange and beautiful enough to "fill the bill." It was obviously produced singly, for all known examples twisted the same way, a pair could not be discovered. As to whether the narwhal's tusk was the "horn" of the true unicorn there was great argument. The fabled unicorn was a four-footed beast, but this wonderful object men were now told grew out of the nose of a fish! The unicorn legend, however, still persisted,

for early pictures of narwhals portrayed them with horns growing out of their foreheads. During the Middle Ages they were obviously monsters of a paradoxical nature; and even to-day they remain one of the major freaks of natural history.

For narwhals, although entirely aqueous, or rather *subaqueous*, are nevertheless mammals—that is to say, they produce and suckle their young. In spite of the fact that they spend their entire existence under the sea, they are no more fish than bats are birds. As an indication of their mode of existence ages and ages ago, they still retain the rudiments of hind legs buried deep in their interior, while their fore limbs, although now mere paddles, still have the "bones, joints, and even most of the muscles, nerves and arteries of the human arm and hand." Although they are without teeth, except for some rudimentary and abortive ones, the male produces, as if in compensation, one single tusk of prodigious size. This tooth always grows from the same place, namely, the left side of the upper jaw, and may attain a length of over nine feet. It is ivory of the best quality, and can be used for commercial purposes of a certain sort—not, however, for making objects of any great size, for the tusk is hollow for the greater part of its length. But surely, it is vandalism to destroy the rhythm of its spiral twist, and the beauty of its lovely line; all fine narwhal tusks should be treasured, as they were in the days of old, and handed down as heirlooms.

Roughly speaking, the tusk is half the length of its owner; an average tusk is 5ft. in length, a good one is 8ft.; there is one record of 9ft. 4*1/2*ins. Short tusks are often thicker than long ones; I myself own a 7ft. tusk of almost record girth. That remarkable and characteristic feature, the anti-clock-wise spiral twist, is usually very pronounced, and gives the tusk the appearance of having been "wreathed in the fashion of a taper of waxe," or, in less picturesque language, wrung like a wet towel. Very ancient specimens are less wreathed, the wearing down of the ivory being due, not to their great age, but to human agency. One imagines that minute particles of "unicorn" horn were rubbed off and sold for fabulous sums to believers in its efficacy to cure horrible diseases, and to bring back to life those already almost dead. Belief in its curative powers remains, for a bangle



"WREATHED IN THE FASHION OF A TAPER OF WAXE." A 7 feet Narwhal

THE RARE DOUBLE TUSK, LENGTH 5 FEET 6 INCHES (approximately)
By permission of the Trustees of the British Museum

or ring made of narwhal ivory is still supposed to prevent cramp, and to ward off rheumatism.

Although the narwhal may be described as being one-tusked, yet very rarely a freak occurs and he brings off a double—the two concealed dormant teeth in the upper jaw growing to a pair of spiral tusks. There are only two examples in this country. Even when this prodigy appears, the twists of the tusks are the same in both cases, namely, anti-clock-wise, a phenomenon which never occurs in the case of horns. There is no known example of the right tooth being developed and the left being dormant. All males have them in some degree, but there is a single reported instance of a female being toothed, and that one, if we are to believe it, had *two*.

In spite of the advance made during recent years in Arctic exploration, our knowledge of the narwhal has not benefited. It seems that we still have to rely on Scoresby's account of over one hundred years ago for the bulk of our information, and this, excellent as it is, is so slight that it makes us wish for more; for the narwhal must be a very intriguing creature.

A member of the dolphin family of the cetaceans, he is called "narwhal" from the early Norse word for a whale with a beak; although some writers think that the name *nar* means a corpse—that is to say, referring either to its habit of feeding on carrion, which is untrue, or to its peculiar blotted dirty white colour, which is assuredly very like that of a decomposing carcass. He is confined to the Arctic seas, and probably frequents mostly the zone of the southern limit of Polar ice. At one particular point in the circumpolar ocean this zone extends as far south as the latitude of 65° N., namely, in the seas washing southern Greenland

and Baffin Land, and, this being the region chiefly frequented by whaling vessels, most of our knowledge about the narwhal (and the majority of its tusks) originated from that quarter. But they also range far towards the Pole, for Nansen reported them to the north of Frans Joseph Land.

Only four times in history has the narwhal been caught "out of bounds," so far as the British Isles are concerned. Two ended their days on the east coast of England—Norfolk in 1588 and Lincolnshire in 1800; one landed in the Firth of Forth in 1648, and one was stranded in the Shetlands in 1808.

At home they are gregarious, living in "schools" of as many as twenty individuals, and they appear to be of a sportive nature. Although the exact function of the tusk has never been explained, it is probably a form of male display, and may be used by them in fighting for possession of their choice. They certainly use them to scratch their girl-friends, and doubtless find them adequate to ward off rivals. Since the females can do without them, the tusks can serve no essential function such as for feeding, or breaking ice, and they certainly are not employed for attacks on man, the stories of boats being rammed by enraged narwhals being obvious, but quite inaccurate, "travellers' tales." Narwhals are shy, unobtrusive folk, and well able to look after themselves. Nansen, even when in dire need of food, found them most elusive.

Known since the earliest Norsemen reached Greenland, in about 1,000 A.D., it remained for the Elizabethan explorers of the North West Passage to Cathay to bring them back to England. Searching for China, they found little else but sea unicorns, and exploded a myth.

A CASUAL COMMENTARY

THE CHRISTMAS-CARD GAME

WITH this first week of the New Year we come to the time when Christmas cards have lost their savour. No doubt we ought to have done something to pass on the modified rapture that they originally gave us, such as sending them to a neighbouring hospital, but I am supposing that we have been less virtuous. A fortnight ago these cards came in a sparkling tide, and now they remain as a pool of stale and stagnant water. They have served their turn in giving us salutary twinges of conscience; now they tumble off the chimneypiece continually and are almost a nuisance. If only some beneficent hurricane would blow them topsy-turvy into space, we should not pretend to be sorry. Yet before any reader indulges in a regrettable holocaust of robins and churchyards I have a suggestion to make to him, namely, that he should try the Christmas-card game.

It may be, of course, that I am late for the fair. I can only say that the game was entirely new when introduced into my own household on Christmas Day, and so I hope it may still be a revelation to some. The rules, so far as we are concerned, are still rather inchoate, and there are some defects which could no doubt be improved. I can merely describe the game as we played it—nine of us, with a pack of ninety Christmas cards, which are dealt in the ordinary way. The player who has the lead chooses the card in his hand which he regards as most likely to be unique in some respect, and throws it on the table, saying "The most beautiful"—or "hideous," or whatever epithet appeals to him; naturally, it is more subtle than in these instances. Everybody follows suit, or, having no chance of competing, throws away, and the trick is then awarded by public acclamation or, if necessary, by voting. This is, perhaps, something of a weakness, since the hubbub is prodigious and the loudest shouter is apt to bear down opposition and gain the trick. It is also a weakness that the leader (the players lead in rotation) has an enormous advantage in choosing his own battleground in the shape of the epithet. However, the game will be better appreciated through a few examples from real life.

It happened that I had the lead, and here I come to something of a grievance, for I was not awarded the trick, and I still think I ought to have been. I hurled confidently on the table a perfectly odious picture of triplets in a basket adorned with light blue bows, bearing the inscription "A thrice happy Christmas to Mr. D." I said "The most indelicate," and regarded the trick as in my pocket. Most people realised their hopeless case and threw away mere "Good wishes from Mr. and Mrs. Smith," a futile little pansy, or even an enchanting Berthe Morisot of no practical value; but there was one who was not so tamed. I had reckoned without a card, which I had myself received by post, showing the "Beamsville Beach Bathing Beauty Contest"—a young lady with her head emerging from a bath and a gentleman in a tall hat, the traditional Uncle Sam, holding a first-prize rosette and saying "I'll hang it on her,

boys!" It certainly was singularly repellent; at any rate, it was awarded the trick, and I had wasted my lead and was in despair. The second trick produced a spirited contest for "the most Christmassy" card. The leader threw down an "olde worlde" red coach on a snowy road running between firs and birches. In the absence of sunset scenes in churchyards the only serious competition came from delightful little Scottish terriers running through the snow, each bearing in its mouth a word, so that the whole made up the message "Everybody in our house sends everybody in your house greetings." It was entirely charming, but it was just a little flippant; it had not the serious, traditional quality of the scarlet coach, which won the trick accordingly.

The next two tricks went all too easily to the leaders. One, in a bald commercial spirit, said "The largest," and produced an immense picture of a giraffe; he won on mere measurement. The next produced three birds singing their souls out and said "the most twitting." His neighbour was at once more adventurous and more cryptic. He exclaimed "The most Academy surprise" and produced a picture of startled deer in a snow-clad woodland scene, which might have been painted by the late Mr. MacWhirter. There was some legal argument as to whether "Academy surprise" was an adjective, but he was rightly given the trick; and then, quite unexpectedly, came my own chance. I had in my hand what I erroneously deemed a hopeless card. On the outside was merely a coat of arms with a motto, and inside the usual good wishes. What could one do with such a thing? Nobody was likely to throw down a gauntlet with "The most heraldic" or "The most lordly." I saw no other chance, and nearly threw it away on the "most twitting" trick. Suddenly one player, for no clearly ascertained reason, produced a picture of a small black elephant under a large black palm and called it "The most heroic." I looked once more with distaste on my heraldic card and saw that the motto was "Nil desperandum." Here was a gift straight from heaven, for nothing could be more heroic than that.

That was an outrageous piece of luck, but still I had deserved the trick. I am a little ashamed of the next one, and doubt whether my behaviour was what Colonel Blimp in an after-dinner speech would call "in the best traditions of British sportsmanship." My card was hardly a Christmas card at all, being in fact an extraordinarily pretty photograph of a path in a neighbour's woods, running between an avenue of beeches. The branches meet over one's head there and give the feeling of walking up the aisle of a cathedral. A true sportsman would have been less obvious, more symbolic, and more generous. He would perhaps have said: "The most ecclesiastical." I was too greedy for victory at any price, and, throwing down my card with a "That's that" gesture, said "The most sylvan." The trick was mine, and the game, but I was conscious of a certain lack of public enthusiasm. I had fallen short of the high standard which this noble game demands. B. D.

FAMOUS HUNTS AND THEIR COUNTRIES

THE WORCESTERSHIRE



THE WORCESTERSHIRE HUNT SERVANTS

(Left to right): G. YOUNG, second whipper-in; J. HOWSAM, huntsman; J. BONHAM, first whipper-in

WORCESTERSHIRE is the county of Sir Roger de Coverley, and Will Wimble, of the late Lord Coventry, Lord Baldwin, and Elgar. There is something of the charm, simplicity and mellowness of each in this favoured hunting shire.

In the past much good sport has been shown there, but for all that I should not say that the Worcestershire, with its big woodlands, great hairy fences, and blind ditches, is a very easy country to hunt. It could not be argued, either, that the Worcestershire is a good scenting country; in fact, scent never lies really unless the country is well saturated with wet and the going, consequently, is hock-deep.

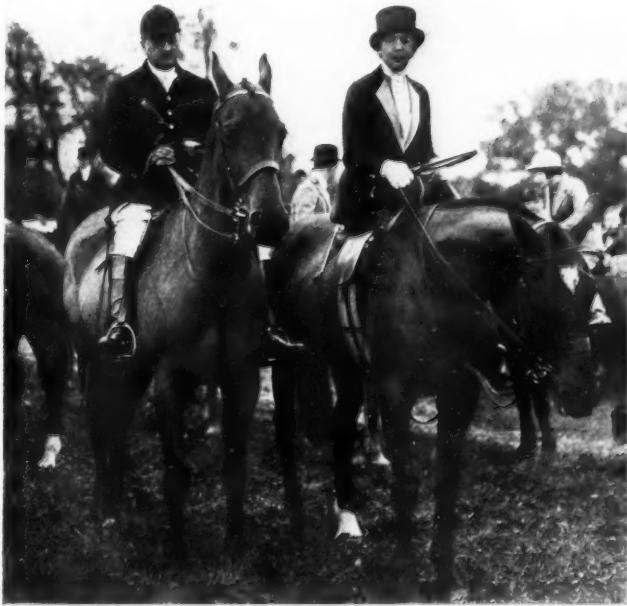
But the Worcestershire is a country for the sportsman and woman who resemble Whyte-Melville's Mr. Softly in their fondness for the essence of hunting, "the hounds, the horses, the servants, the second horsemen, the splashes on top-boots, the golden drops on the gorse covert"; and it is also a rare place for those who like to watch hounds work. It is now hunted three days a week. Plough has very considerably decreased within recent years, and is now only found on the western and southern borders of the country, while the big woodlands lie mainly in the

north, which marches with the Albrighton Woodland, and the south, which is adjacent to the Croome.

From a riding as well as a hunting point of view the pick of the country lies round Stock Green, Berrow Hill, and Bentley. Here you will find wide-spreading fields of close-bitten pastureland, and cut and laid fences, a good deal of timber and many ditches, and it takes a clever horse to keep with hounds. The Wednesday country around Kenswick and Broadwas consists of good, sound pastureland, alternating with light plough. The increase of grass in the country is particularly noticeable around Hanwood Forest, Droitwich and Himbleton. This country is usually hunted on Fridays, and there is a grand stretch of vale, strongly fenced with thorn, between Droitwich and Himbleton.

The fact is, there is a good sporting spirit abroad in the country, and it is pleasing to see so many velvet-capped farmers riding what Jorrocks would have termed "werry likely nags." There are many good hunting farmers of the type of the rare old yeoman Tom Andrew, who was so well known in the country. And they all appear to ride as well as they till, which is saying a good deal.

To "cast back" for the commencement of the Worcestershire's story, one has to travel back to the days of the Regency.



W. Dennis Moss
THE MASTER, MR. HUGH SUMNER,
AND MRS. SUMNER



MAJOR H. P. RUSHTON, EX-MASTER, ON O'DELL;
WITH HIM IS MRS. ALLAN PERINS



THE MISSES PAT, BRENDA, AND DIANA BEAN
ARE CONSPICUOUSLY WELL MOUNTED!

In the year 1813 a Major Bland was hunting the country, and then, for two seasons, that great gambler Lord Foley, who was the racing partner of Charles James Fox, hunted the country for a couple of seasons, being followed by Colonel Newnham and Mr. Hornyhold.

This brings us to 1826, when Mr. John Hornyhold assisted Mr. John Parker, a farmer on the Spetchley estate, to collect a new pack after the country had been vacant for a year. The Berkelys of Spetchley built kennels on Mr. Parker's farm, Old House, Whittington, for him, and he hunted the country till 1832. "Nimrod," who often stayed at Old House, considered John Parker the "best man on a bad hunter, or no hunter at all, he ever saw." Mr. Parker's end was a sad one, as he died in the Powick Asylum and lies buried in Powick Churchyard.

The next Master of the Worcestershire was Mr. C. Brock, and after him Captain Candler until 1846, from which year the Kennel Book dates. It must be borne in mind that the Worcestershire at this time also hunted country now hunted by the Croome and Clifton-on-Teme. The division of the country in the former instance took place in 1874, when the ninth Lord Coventry founded the Croome.

Before this, however, the following acted as Masters of the Worcestershire: the Hon. Dudley Ward (with a committee), 1846-47; Mr. John Russell Cookes, 1847-49; Colonel Clowes, 1849-55; Mr. Cookes (second mastership), 1855-57; Colonel Clowes and Mr. Cookes until 1865; and short masterships including Mr. H. F. Vernon (later Sir Harry Foley Vernon), Mr. Allsopp, and the Marquess of Queensberry, till 1871.

After the Croome division, which is roughly a line drawn from Worcester southwards into Warwickshire, and westward of the River Teme from Powick upwards, Mr. Henry Allsopp, afterwards Lord Hindlip, continued to hunt the newly constituted country until 1876, when Mr. Frederick Ames came forward and, with the exception of two seasons, 1876 to 1879, when Mr. C.



FORWARD AWAY!
THE SECOND WHIPPER-IN IN ACTION

Morrell's mastership intervened, carried on the Hunt till 1896, and during that period spared no pains with either kennel management (the Worcestershire won the brood bitch championship with Wildfire at Peterborough in 1893) or the interests of the farmers and covert-owners.

It is fitting here to say something of Worcestershire's famous huntsman Will Shepherd, who came to the country in 1888, and who died in the huntsman's house at the Fernhill Heath kennels on the day when Jerry M. won the Grand National of 1912.

He was of the old breed of Hunt servants, of the type of Will Dale and Charles Travess, Jim Bailey and Frank Gillard—men who thoroughly understood the science of venery and who stayed with one pack nearly all their hunting careers until they were reckoned as one of the institutions of their own countryside. Shepherd was of this genus. A good horseman, he was a patient and skilful huntsman, with a melodious voice and a fine performer on the horn. Old Tom Andrew used to tell me he was also the wittiest of men.

Throughout the mastership of the Earl of Dudley (for whom that fine horseman Captain J. O. Trotter acted as Field Master) and Mr. C. R. Mills, a Northamptonshire man, to that of the late Mr. Arthur Jones, Shepherd acted as huntsman.

The late Mr. Arthur Jones, who controlled the affairs of the Worcestershire either singly or co-jointly from 1906 to 1929, his Joint Master being Colonel W. H. Wiggin (1921-24), was one of those men for whom the office of M.F.H. seems to have been especially created. Pre-eminently a hound man, he left a wonderful pack of working hounds in the kennels, and for many years showed a high standard of sport.

In the field he had a terse and pithy manner of expressing himself, not unlike that of the eighteenth Lord Willoughby de Broke, whom in many respects he resembled. He was also a born naturalist.

When Mr. Jones died his place was taken by Major H. P.



W. Dennis Moss

THE BITCH PACK LEAVES THE KENNELS FOR EXERCISE



TOM PHILLIPS, TERRIER-MAN, AND HIS CHARGES



PEDLAR ('36)



WEXFORD ('32), FATHER OF THE KENNEL

Rushton, owner of those two game steeplechasers O'Dell and Ebon Knight, who was at the head of affairs till 1933, when he was joined by the present Master, Mr. Hugh Sumner. Major Rushton resigned in 1937, and Mr. Sumner carries on alone.

A keen horseman and a good judge of a hunter, he mounts the Hunt staff admirably on just the right stamp of hunter for the country. Mr. Sumner has owned several good point-to-point horses, including Tidelock, winner of thirteen races, and My Guard. He also has a horse or two in training "over the sticks," and a few show horses, with which he has had fair success. The stud groom is Dick Montgomery, who has been with the Worcestershire over forty years.

The Worcestershire huntsman is now Jack Howsam, who succeeded Tom Peaker, who bred a fine pack of hounds before he went to hunt the Cheshire. Howsam served a useful apprenticeship under Frank Morris with the Cleveland, before he came to the Worcestershire, was with the Quorn and Belvoir, and I was struck with the manner—quiet, patient and kindly—with which he showed me his favourites. He is ably assisted in kennel by Harry Reed, who has been with the Worcestershire nearly fifty years.

The Worcestershire of to-day owe a great deal of their quality and working capabilities to Hannibal ('25), a rare stallion hound bred and entered by Mr. Arthur Jones.

Another sire who has left his mark on the kennel is the Old Berkshire Shiner ('29), and Winner ('28), of whom poor Fred Holland thought so highly. Then there is a distinct preponderance of Fernie Sampler ('34) blood, while the Warwickshire Palmer brings in an infusion of that great dog Belvoir Wexford.

At the present the kennel owes much to Wexford ('32), a son of Old Berkshire Winner, who is not only remarkably fresh

but a beautifully modelled foxhound with good ribs and a well set on head and neck. He has transmitted both his looks and his staunch working qualities to his progeny.

Patrick ('34), by Ambrose (son of Hannibal) from Priestess ('30), is a home-bred one and first-prize winner at the Puppy Show of his year. He is clear cut about the head and neck and shoulders, has well turned limbs, and the best of legs and feet. Even more handsome and an undeniably good dog in his work is Halifax ('36), by Hasty, a slashing son of Wexford and Hasty. He meets you cleverly and has a nice straight back and excellent shoulders. With his air of what may be termed beautiful quality, he is a great asset to the kennel. His sister Harmony ('36), with her feathered stern is a very handsome bitch, besides being a true fox-catcher. She has a *penchant* for jumping gates, and Jack Howsam loves to dwell on the manner in which she cleared a six-barred gate in her stride on the Cotheridge country.

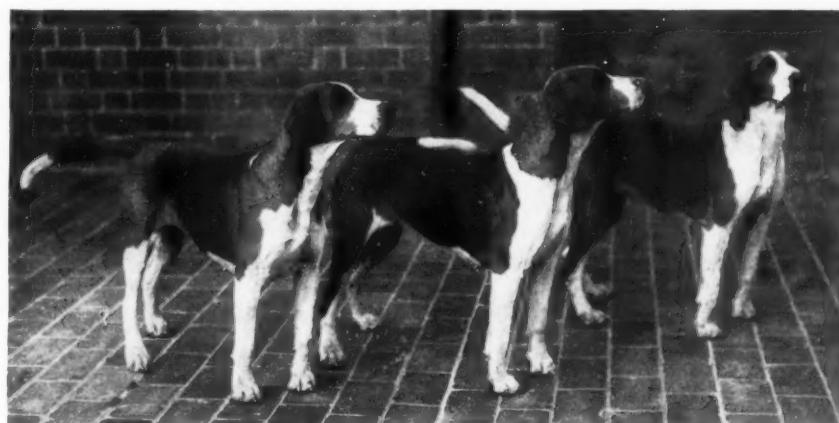
Of Saintly ('35), Saucebox ('35) and Sanguine ('35), it may be said that they are not only a very handsome one and a half couples, but

sharp and keen of appearance. They hunt well and like their work.

Pedlar ('36) was first prize winner of the Puppy Show of his year and is deep in the Belvoir tan, a coat-livery he inherits from his sire the Warwickshire Palmer, which went back to Belvoir Wexford. All quality in appearance, Pedlar has a rare wear-and-tear look about him.

Of this year's entry there is much to like about Canopy, whose beautiful quality instantly strikes one. Cobbler, another son of Wexford, requires a little time yet, while Costly, who is well turned in all points, was the first prize winner at the Puppy Show.

WILLIAM FAWCETT.

SAINTLY, SAUCEBOX AND SANGUINE (all '35) BY FERNIE SAMPLER ('30)
—RAPTURE ('30)

W. Dennis Moss

PATRICK ('34)



HALIFAX ('36)

SCOTTISH PAINTING at BURLINGTON HOUSE



"CURLERS." SIR G. HARVEY
Lent by the National Gallery of Scotland

TO think of Scotland in relation to the arts brings Burns and Scott first to mind, poetry and romance, then perhaps the rugged architecture of its castles. The average Englishman is less aware of a Scottish school of painting because it stands so near to his own. And it is true that technically it is a branch of the British school, and a foreigner would probably detect no conspicuous difference. In fact, no

such difference could exist, considering that many of the Scottish painters worked, at least to some extent, in England, and that, at the time when painting in Scotland first began to make strides, after the 'Forty-five, English influence was paramount. And yet Scottish painters do form a school in the sense that the Italian painters are divided into local schools, and the country has certainly left its stamp on the artists' work. It would be too much to say that the Scottish character can be detected in every picture in the Exhibition ; but, apart from a certain squareness and vigour of handling, there are many associations to add local colour to the pictures, as, for example, the records of Highland costume through the ages, portraits of distinguished personalities, pictures of national sports and of historical scenes, and landscapes of familiar country.

The Exhibition is arranged chronologically from the seventeenth century to the present day, including some of the most modern artists recently deceased. On the whole, rather too much space has been given to nineteenth-century painting of the impressionist-photographic variety, so that the chief artistic interest will be found in the first four rooms, and in the Architecture Room, where the most modern pictures are hung. Naturally, Raeburn is the outstanding feature of the Exhibition, and the committee must be congratulated on the splendid array of his portraits gathered together in the large gallery, preceded by a room full of Ramsays, and followed by Wilkie and Geddes.

The first room shows the beginnings, which were late and none too brilliant in Scotland. George Jamesone, who is reputed to have studied in Antwerp under Rubens and has been called the Scottish Van Dyck, shows a heavy hand and little sense of colour to vouch for this training ; but his pupil, Joseph Michael Wright, distinguished himself among Lely's contemporaries, and his portrait of a Highland Chieftain (No. 15) is the earliest known painting of a Highland dress. The portrait has been known as the "Earl of Moray," or it may represent John Campbell, sixth Earl of Breadalbane. Certainly it dates from about 1665 and shows the magnificent combination of tartan and slashed doublet with plenty of lace and feathers. The portrait of Kenneth, third Lord Duffus, by Richard Waitt, represents Highland dress about half a century later. Lord Duffus was imprisoned in the Tower after the 1715 rebellion, and later became an admiral in the Russian Navy. Another excellent full-length portrait of still later date represents William St. Clair of Roslin as captain of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers in the



THE MACDONALD CHILDREN. SIR H. RAEBURN
Lent by Lord Bearsted



THE ARTIST'S WIFE. ALLAN RAMSAY

Lent by the National Gallery of Scotland

act of driving off on the links. Though painted at the age of seventy-one, the picture suggests remarkable liteness of body, due perhaps to the practice of golf. The artist, Sir George Chalmers, has succeeded in combining this effect with a penetrating character study of the head.

The conversation piece appears to have won favour at an early date in Scotland. There is no example in the Exhibition of Gawan Hamilton, whose work has sometimes been confused with Hogarth's, but there is an attractive group of Sir William Hamilton



FLORA MACDONALD. ALLAN RAMSAY

Lent by the National Gallery of Scotland

and his first wife, painted in Naples in 1770 by David Allan ; and a very perfect conversation piece (the two men are really conversing over a glass of wine) by John Thomas Seton, representing William Fullerton of Carstairs and Captain Lowis. This was once attributed to Zoffany, though it is signed and dated 1773, and shows considerably more vivacity of expression than is usual in the works of the German.

At a time when Roman training was considered essential to the formation of an artist, it is not surprising to find Jacob



SIR JOHN SINCLAIR. SIR HENRY RAEURN

Lent by the National Gallery of Scotland



LADY CARNEGIE. SIR HENRY RAEURN

Lent by the Earl of Southesk



ROADSIDE SCENE. W. GEIKIE
Lent by the National Gallery of Scotland



PENNY WEDDING. SIR DAVID WILKIE. Lent by H.M. the King



PATRICK BRYDONE. ANDREW GEDDES. Lent by the Earl of Minto

More depicting "The Falls of Clyde" in the manner of Claude, and the Runcimans trying their hand at history painting. But these experiments had little following, and it was in portraiture that the Scottish school excelled, producing two great masters in Ramsay and Raeburn. The former was highly gifted with taste and technical accomplishment, and produced some exquisite work in his early period, but his art was ruined by Court favour, so that in the end he left the repetition of Royal portraits to his assistants and retired to enjoy the life of a wealthy and cultured gentleman. Over a score of his best portraits are now assembled for the first time, showing every aspect of his work, from the dashing Macleod portraits from Dunvegan Castle painted in 1748 to the delicate restraint of the "General Wolfe" dated 1758 and therefore anticipating rather than following Gainsborough's luminous effects as in his "Captain Wade," for Gainsborough was still at Ipswich painting small full-lengths at the time. It is difficult to make a choice among Ramsay's portraits, so alluring are his ladies and yet so varied in their appeal. The rather severe "Lady Hall of Dunglass," her dress making a fine contrast of black against her beautifully drawn hands, was painted in 1752, the same year as "Flora MacDonald." The portraits of the painter's second wife, of Mrs. Bruce of Arnot, and of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, from the National Gallery of Scotland, are fairly well known; but there are others from private collections exhibited now for the first time, and their beauty makes one regret that an even greater display of this fine artist was not brought together. He has had to wait long for recognition, having been overshadowed by his successors, Reynolds and Gainsborough in England and Raeburn in Scotland, but now it is not difficult to prophesy that his merits will be recognised to be in some ways equal to Raeburn's. For Raeburn has more skill than art, and his later work is often cheap in its effect. It is the human appeal in his portraits that makes them so popular. He depicted a fine generation of Scots, men, women and children, at a time when costume was still picturesque, and, being himself a good sportsman, he made his sitters hold guns and bows as though they knew how to use them, not playfully as in some English portraits.

Raeburn's career is presented even more fully than Ramsay's from the second portrait he ever produced, the miniature of David Deuchar, to one of the last—the portrait of Sir Walter Scott. From goldsmiths' work and miniature he rapidly developed a broad manner through the training he received from David Martin, whose self-portrait shows him to have been more capable than is usually believed. The early, even-toned Raeburns are undoubtedly the finest, and one of the most beautiful of these is the archery piece of Sir Ronald and Robert Ferguson, cool in colour and quiet in tone. The Paterson, Macdonald and Drummond children, the virile Glengarry, Sinclair, and Spens, the lovely early portrait of Lady Carnegie, and many other masterpieces present Raeburn at his best, and make one regret that in his later works he achieved exaggerated relief by forced shadow and concentrated light to the loss of harmony.

Colour is nowhere a great *forte* in the Scottish school, but it is most agreeable in the work of Andrew Geddes—in his self-portrait, for example, which suggests comparison with Delacroix as a romantic presentation. His small portraits of Patrick Brydone and David Wilkie are brilliant, and all his works except the large group of the six daughters of Mr. Arbuthnot show remarkable beauty of handling, delighting the painter's eye as well as interpreting character.



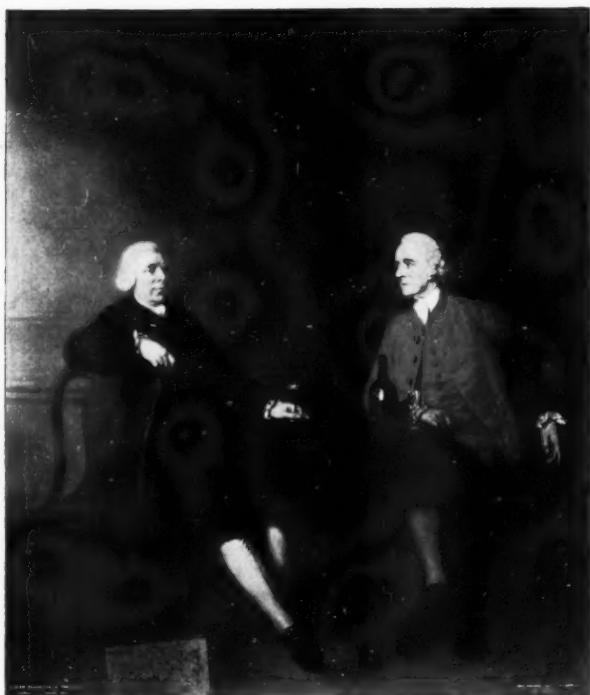
HIGHLAND CHIEF. J. MICHAEL WRIGHT
Lent by the National Portrait Gallery of Scotland

Scottish *genre*, based on Dutch, can be traced from David Allan through Carse to Wilkie. Many of his popular pieces are here—"Village Politicians," "Blind Man's Buff," "The Penny Wedding," "Chelsea Pensioners," etc.—and the amount of expression conveyed through their painting in quiet colours with unobtrusive modelling is quite masterly. It is a pity that the backgrounds of some of these pictures have cracked owing to the use of bitumen in the shadows. Geikie's "Roadside Scene," Sir George Harvey's "Curlers," and Sir Francis Grant's "Golf at North Berwick," illustrate other aspects of Scottish life and art, and the romantic appeal of the Scottish



WILLIAM ST. CLAIR OF ROSLIN. SIR G. CHALMERS
Lent by the Royal Company of Archers

scene has been rendered by the Rev. John Thomson of Duddingston, Horatio McCulloch, and many others. The lurid fantasy of David Scott stands alone in the Scottish school, and can only be compared with that of Blake; the work of William Dyce is better known in England, but it is interesting to see an example of his early portraiture in the little "Harriet Macnochie." Then there are plenty of Victorian narrative pictures, by Faed, Orchardson and Pettie; a roomful of M'Taggarts; and some echoes of the present-day school of Paris in the works of Leslie Hunter, Fergusson and Peploe.



MR. FULLERTON AND FRIEND. J. T. SETON
Lent by the National Gallery of Scotland



NEWARK CASTLE. THE REV. JOHN THOMSON
Lent by the Duke of Buccleuch

London Entertainment

THE THEATRE

MARCO MILLIONS—*Theatre*: Westminster. *Author*: Eugene O'Neill. *Producer*: Michael Macowan. *Players*: Griffith Jones, Robert Harris, Catherine Lacey, and others.

The London Mask Theatre is doing sterling work; its admirable production of *Troilus and Cressida* in modern dress was an astonishingly successful experiment; and it is a welcome addition to London's theatreland to have a competent repertory company working on a bold but sensible policy of running good plays for a limited season. We may well be grateful to Michael Macowan and Peter Coffin for the ability with which they combine an experimental approach with strict economy in production, and avoid at the same time anything approaching the pretentious or the highbrow.

The current production of *Marco Millions* is particularly interesting. For Eugene O'Neill, that will-o'-the-wisp of contemporary drama, attempts here, not without success, a satire on ourselves, set in a period partly historical and partly mythical. He takes us to the quiet and philosophic life of the East in the company of Marco Polo, who is presented quite blatantly as the symbol of American Big Business, with its success-complex and its third-rate sentiment towards life. As a joke, this might easily wear thin (as, indeed, was proved by Samuel Goldwyn's attempt to make a film out of the same theme); but O'Neill is too good a dramatist to allow the many possibilities for naïve humour to outweigh the deeper considerations which underlie the situation he has created. There is something very moving in the slow development of the spiritual conflict between Princess Kukachin, whose Eastern soul imbibes a strange draught of passion from the Western hireling, and her father, the Great Khan, in whom the grave philosophies of the East are finely symbolised. It is a cruel play; the humours of Polo's commercial successes, and his exclusive concentration on materialism, are in vicious contrast with the decencies represented by the Oriental civilisation from which he extracts only wealth, and nothing of its spirit.

O'Neill is, of course, an experimenter. He has evolved a new style and technique almost year by year. The expressionism of *The Emperor Jones*, the mannered comedy of *Ah Wilderness*, the turgid tragedy of *Mourning Becomes Electra*—all these represent a fitful striving at new means of expression. *Marco Millions* in yet another style, is in the same restless category, and it shares the failings of all O'Neill's work; it suffers in form, as do all his plays, through the lack of a set technique established by experience and decision over a period of considered development. It is a fault which brings with it many virtues, not least those of spontaneity. There are moments in *Marco Millions*, such as the farewell scene between Kukachin and Marco, which have the breath-taking quality of a cold douche.

Griffith Jones, as Marco Polo, is particularly effective in the earlier scenes, where, as a youth, he has not yet entirely capitulated to Mammon; later, when the worst has happened, his Tammany outlook fits him a little less well. Catherine Lacey, as Kukachin, who has to convey the agonies of an Oriental princess battling against the fever of love (in the Western sense), carries off a difficult part with great skill. But Robert Harris as Kublai Khan, and George Howe as his philosophic adviser lighten the whole play with their sensitive understanding of the author's meaning. The settings, though not especially inspiring, are quite adequate.

Other Plays

The Scarlet Pimpernel (Embassy).—This old favourite will revive many theatrical memories. The cast includes Dorothy Dickson, Esme Percy, Derrick de Marney, and Mabel Terry-Lewis.

Let's Pretend (St. James's).—A revue for children, with Steve Geray, Magda Kun, and some talented child actors.

Geneva (Saville).—An amazingly successful satire on modern ideologies. Bernard Shaw has here recaptured much of his earlier fire and wit.

Number Six (Aldwych).—Gordon Harker in an out-and-out thriller based on a story by Edgar Wallace.

The leading part in *The Boy Who Lost His Temper* at the Duke of York's Theatre, is being played by Master Roger Parker and not, as recently stated, by Master Robin Maule.

IN "THE YOUNG IN HEART": ROLAND YOUNG, JANET GAYNOR, BILLIE BURKE AND DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS JR.

THE CINEMA

THE YOUNG IN HEART (Odeon).—This is a whimsical story about a dear old spinster lady whose trusting behaviour converts a family of caddish confidence tricksters to blubbering repentance. It mingles ill-timed sentimentality with well timed comedy, to the detriment of both. Where it succeeds is in the excellence of the casting and the technical competence of the director and his minions. *The Young in Heart*, to be brief about it, simply reeks of Box-office. There is Roland Young, as a fake Colonel with a great skill in cheating at poker, until his conversion when he becomes managing director of a large motor company; there is Janet Gaynor, as his daughter, who is the first to see the light; there is Douglas Fairbanks junior, as his usual charming self; there is Billie Burke, giving her customary imitation of flutteringly idiotic middle-age; and a host of others of varied attraction. Some of the material they have to work with is not without merit, but over it all hangs the bogey of the Dear Old Lady (admirably played by Minnie Dupree), who is so sweet and understanding and is bound to have a serious illness towards the end of the film: which she does, amid scenes of unparalleled gloom and stifled sobs.

Incidentally, the producers have taken a leaf out of the works of the late Sir James Barrie, and introduced a young Scotsman, who more than reminds one of *What Every Woman Knows*, and speaks in a carefully modulated Hollywood version of his native tongue. Richard Carlson, who plays this part, is a newcomer of considerable promise; but it is a pity he should have to make such an inauspicious début. Finally, in order that there should be something for everyone, the cast includes some baby penguins and an extremely attractive puppy.

The Young in Heart is at its best when it is concerned with comedy. The scenes showing the mixture of impudence and charm with which the Carleton family sets about the seduction of the victim are quite admirable, and are capped by a very well staged derailment of a French railway train, which gains in verisimilitude by the reticence with which it is built up. Nearly all the scenes in which Roland Young appears are, of course, delightful. His voice, his monocle, and his half-concealed nervousness all combine into a comic style worthy of a better film. There is, too, one grand moment, when Young and Fairbanks, whiling away the time when they are supposed to be job-hunting, watch the antics of a large gang of men on a building site. They discuss the scene as though they were watching industrious insects, with all the clichés of the ordinary man wondering at Mother Nature's strange biological laws, and thus invest at least one scene in the film with a mixture of fantasy and apt social comment.

The setting of the story is for the most part that strange London which Hollywood so frequently creates. The fogs and hansom cabs are, it is true, absent for once; but everyone continues to wear spats and bowler hats, or full morning dress, or, alternatively, a cloth cap and a rich Cockney accent; and there is the usual precise brilliance of sunlight on the Palladian street scenes.

All in all, *The Young in Heart* would be a very jolly film if the cads were allowed to follow a more natural development; but that, of course, would offend Hollywood's unwritten laws of morality, and we must suffer as best we may the bogey of the Dear Old Lady brooding over the entire piece and introducing an unwelcome tear when what is really needed is a good guffaw.

Other Films

Trade Winds (London Pavilion).—A globe-trotting story, against backgrounds filmed by the director, Tay Garnett, during a world cruise. With Frederick March as a detective, and Joan Bennett as the girl he is pursuing.

Entrée des Artistes (Curzon).—A story of the Paris Conservatoire, which could have been much more effective had the claims of melodrama been ignored. Fine performances by Jouvet and Janine Darcey.

Cheri-Bibi (Berkeley).—A new French film featuring Pierre Fresnay.

That Certain Age (Leicester Square).—Deanna Durbin's growing pains treated with uncommon tact. There are good performances by Melvyn Douglas and Jackie Cooper, while the Durbin voice is still a model of clarity and precision. **GEORGE MARSDEN.**



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

SIDE-LIGHTS ON HISTORY—A REVIEW BY RALPH EDWARDS

The Jacobean Age, by David Mathew. (Longmans, 15s.)

THE character of this book is hard to suggest briefly. The author calls it rather vaguely "a study of the historical setting of the first quarter of the seventeenth century in England," and his publishers "a detailed and exquisitely finished picture of the time." That is nearer the mark, but implies something continuous and complete; whereas it is rather as if a curtain were raised, then lowered, and lifted again on another scene; or as if a series of vivid side-lights were focused on different aspects of the background. There are many aspects, and all are worth while. We are shown how great men lived and how they came to accept unquestioningly doctrines and beliefs which are barely intelligible to us; why a Francis Bacon or a Villiers, each in such different ways, impressed themselves indelibly on the imagination of their contemporaries; how it came about that harsh penal laws were tolerable in practice; why a traffic in monopolies was thought desirable by honourable men; or, stranger still, how a Lord Treasurer could be publicly convicted of fraud and yet soon restored again to favour. But this is a random choice: the great originality of the book consists in the eminent skill with which subjects generally studied in isolation—architecture, fluctuations of taste, foreign travel, or fashions in collecting—are here used to reveal a spirit and temper of mind. First we have Salisbury sitting at Theobalds like a spider in his web and drawing all the threads of policy to himself. To him come reports from all over England of things great and small, and much that seems trivial is found to have an unexpected significance. A gentleman with expectations from a rich aunt writes to explain that if, through his agency, she is spared the severity of the recusancy laws, she is likely to remember that service in her will: an old countryman in Yorkshire is converted by a priest, one of the Inglebys of Ripley, on his death-bed. It emerges how great was the latitude allowed to loyal Catholics. Or the light is turned suddenly on to Prince Henry, who, not yet in his teens, asks Salisbury to see that the Deanery of Durham is given to his tutor, while the tutor reciprocates the Prince's good offices by requesting that "his highness may have leave to learn to swim . . . The presumption that his Highness hath by your Lordship's own children going into the Water makes him expect your approval." Then, in connection with monopolies and as a proof of the enterprise of native industry, Shrewsbury writes: "because you may see what excellent varieties my poor town of Sheffield can afford, my wife sendeth you a case of knives made there, representing the figure of Christ with his 12 Apostles." We see the palace of Hatfield completing for "little bossive Robin that was so great," the huge marble mantelpieces are hauled into place and followed by charges for "painting the timber work of the great stairs, washing the naked boys and lions standing upon those stairs." That was in 1611, and they stand there yet. And on the equipment of palaces and the new passion for collecting, mainly carried on through the agency of English Ambassadors abroad, there are abundant particulars which throw new light on the aims and limitations of the *virtuosi* concerned. Sir Dudley Carleton, looking for gain from Arundel's princely disbursements on works of art, finds his hopes dashed when his agent tells him "Lord Rosse hath spoiled the sale of your Statues, because after all his pains and chardges bestowed in collecting and gathering together such antiquities . . . he hath nowe in an humour (and I may say an ill one) given them all to my Lord of Arundell, whch hath exceedingly beautified his Long Gallery." To beautify it further Arundel told Sir Thomas Roe he would like "sixe fine pieces of stories in a wall at Constantinople," but though the Earl suggested they might be "stollen for money by ye Turkes," he was compelled to relinquish his designs upon the Golden Gate. Arundel's dealings in such matters were not more scrupulous than those of Buckingham, whose concern with the arts forcibly suggests the *nouveau riche*—"if your Excellency will only give me time to mine quietly, I will fill Newhall with paintings, so that foreigners will come there in procession." All such extracts—these are but a few specimens—throw light on the characters of the chief actors in the scene: they are not cited merely for their antiquarian interest or curiosity. Once, indeed, Dr. Mathews is at fault: the Venetian Room at Knole does not "suggest the repercussions of current taste": its equipment belongs to a later reign.

For his material the author has drawn copiously on unpublished material, notably the Hatfield and Wardour MSS., and after the intensive researches of recent years, it is surprising that of the former alone twenty volumes remain for a single year. This is the kind of book which is not puffed in advance nor trumpeted on arrival: it makes no loud claims, promises no startling revelations, does not debunk heroes or seek to reverse the verdict on scoundrels. Its originality is not to be guessed from the title, and the style has no popular appeal. But if it be important to make twenty years of English history in a critical period more readily intelligible by revealing the spirit and temper of mind that determine action, and can alone explain it, then certainly this is an important book. Moreover, the author is, I believe, a Roman Catholic priest, deeply concerned with religious issues, and yet there is not a trace of bias or propaganda. There

are eight good reproductions from contemporary portraits, but it is a pity arbitrarily to mutilate a picture so that it may exactly fill a page.

Saurus, by Eden Phillpotts. (John Murray, 7s. 6d.)

IF a novelist set out to depict the judgments of pure reason, uninfluenced by emotion, on the world of to-day, his work might be admired but would probably not be read. But let him embody pure reason in the green and scaly person of a highly conscious lizard from a distant planet, arriving on earth in a metal bullet, complete with food supply, and eager readers will swallow the philosophical passages with pleasure. Mr. Eden Phillpotts has adopted this device, and his *voluble iguana*, with its typewriter and bowl of fruit, is a very pleasant conceit. It is cared for by Professor Toddleben and his delightful sister Norah, and in return treats them to many lengthy speculations on the contrast between man's high ideals and low practices. It also, by its telepathic powers, saves Norah's daughter from a gang of spies, prevents Rex the dog from dying of snake-bite, and forestalls its own kidnappers. This is a very unusual book, part parable and part tract, with pleasant touches of humour and a style agreeably prosy. As it provides much food for thought, it will not be everybody's meat; but for those who like politics and philosophy presented in the frame of fiction, it will prove extremely interesting.

A. C. H.

Solitude, by V. Sackville-West. (Hogarth Press, 5s.)

THIS is a lovely, loosely woven poem of the night, of the kind of solitude experienced only in hours of darkness, when

The night remains our mistress and our mother . . .

The alien language of the day forgotten

That we as foreigners were forced to learn.

So, either alone in her room while others sleep, or
gone afield

Drinking the deep nocturnal silences,

the poet communes with her soul and faces the swift, oncoming shadow of age that haunts poets (who are by their very nature young) even more than it haunts most men.

Under the tightened finger of Time's grip

My bones already shape a skeleton . . .

Time only for the scrambling jettison

To save a labouring ship.

In lambent word and phrase the poet who wrote "The Land" here gives expression to man's everlasting, poignant cry:

And there are many paths I have not trod,

—I have not even cleared my way to God.

V. H. F.

A Childhood's Animals, by Huldine V. Beamish. Illustrated by Nina Scott Langley. (Edward Arnold, 7s. 6d.)

THIS is an enthralling book—a book which will be read over and over again by adults and children alike, and will surely rank high among animal classics. Its very versatility is a thing to wonder at, for it describes the lives and habits of an astonishing host of family pets, beginning with mice and rats, newts and frogs to ravens and pigeons, horses, donkeys, dogs, and cats, goats and foxes—indeed, almost every animal or bird which has ever fraternised naturally or by persuasion with human beings. From their earliest childhood up to the time when they left home—when the chronicle ends—Miss Beamish and her sister played with, studied, understood, and cared for a procession of pets so numerous that only a born animal-lover could have carried their characteristics so clearly in her mind. The pluck and enterprise of these two little girls, who started a donkey farm in secret on their own initiative, and one of whom—the author—at the age of ten or eleven raised a pack of terriers and other dogs recruited from the village for rabbit-hunting and ratting, and controlled them herself without difficulty, makes an astonishing saga; while there is plenty of useful information on how to rear, treat and doctor the various species of their Noah's Ark family. Except for an occasional casual mention we have to wait until Chapter 14 and the succeeding chapters for the story of the family dogs; but it is so good and withal so moving when it comes that—like all good things—it is well worth waiting for. Miss Beamish has been admirably supported by the charming drawings of Nina Scott Langley, who has illustrated the book; and there is not one of us who will not be inclined to echo almost the last words of this most lovable and satisfying history: "Fur and feather—you can never get rid of them once they have found a place in your life and heart."

The Dog in Sport, by J. Wentworth Day. (Harrap, 8s. 6d.)

MR. J. WENTWORTH DAY has given us a pleasing *mélange* of sporting recollections. Lord Castlerosse gives the book a suitable blessing by expressing the opinion in a foreword that a better subject does not exist. "Dogs cannot contradict you, nor bring libel actions against you." Mr. Day has had a wide experience with sport over dogs from the time he was a boy, bred in Norfolk, when he had a terrier as his companion in all sorts of adventures. A visit to Egypt furnished him with material for a vivid chapter on coursing with Salukis in the desert. In the course of his researches he has collected a good deal of out-of-the-way information about the breeds that he describes. The chapter on "Coursing Days on the Fen and Sea Marsh" will appeal to all who appreciate the sport that can be had in the eastern counties. He has a special liking for the Chesapeake Bay dog that came to us from America a few years ago. A. CROXTON SMITH.

A SELECTION FOR THE LIBRARY LIST.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, by Evarts Scudder (Collins, 15s.); STRANGE FISH AND THEIR STORIES, by A. Hyatt Verell (Harrap, 10s. 6d.); MORAL REARMAMENT, edited by H. W. Austin (Heinemann, 6d.). *Fiction*: THE YOUNG COSIMA, by Henry Handel Richardson (Heinemann, 7s. 6d.); FOUR FINGERS, by Lynn Brook (Collins, 7s. 6d.).

ACHESON HOUSE, EDINBURGH

THE RESTORATION OF AN OLD MANSION

A PRE-WAR writer on Edinburgh could remark how private enterprise was salvaging the ancient mansions in the Old Town and putting them to good service as hostels, students' settlements and social clubs. Referring to those towering "lands," or tenements, ancestors of the modern sky-scraper, he foresaw in this rejuvenation of picturesque antiquity "a true Back to the *Lands* Movement." To-day, unfortunately, we can count many a sad loss since those words were written, for associations, historical or literary, have not succeeded in withstanding the Housing Acts and the unanswerable fact that, in the case of these massive old rookeries, demolition is cheaper than restoration. On the credit side, however, there is a comforting amount. At the Palace of Holyroodhouse the City authorities have at least discussed the need of an improved approach through the huddle of breweries, slums and railway lines that hem in the Royal dwelling and gardens. At the Palace gates a charming improvement has already been made by the restoration of the old Debtors' Sanctuary in the Abbey Strand and its use as a visitors' restaurant. Thomson's Court, once a convivial centre of eighteenth-century Edinburgh life, has been converted into a quaint paved garden, and all this transformation into dignity and beauty of what was till recently a "riddle" of tumble-down buildings has been brought about by the late Earl of Rosebery's generosity in purchasing and presenting the property to H.M. Office of Works.

At the other end of the Royal Mile the National Trust for Scotland has succeeded, despite a heavy financial handicap, in saving the impressive edifice of Gladstone's Land in the Lawnmarket. This is of special interest, as it is the only survival of an arcaded front, once a feature of Old Edinburgh architecture. The restoration of this building is worthy, moreover, of special note, since it is intended "to bring it back into the life of modern Edinburgh as a self-supporting holding of the National Trust in a portion of the town which is greatly in need of improved living accommodation."

It is with this same desire to raise the High Street and Canongate of Edinburgh to something like its old residential status that the most recent restoration in the city has been carried through and now completed. This is the handsome old mansion, Acheson House, built in 1633 by Sir Archibald Acheson of Glencairnie, Charles I's Secretary for Scotland and friend of Drummond of Hawthornden, the poet. Sadly enough, Sir Archibald did not live to see the completion of his sumptuous new home, over the doorway of which stands the momentous date 1633, the year in which his Royal master paid a ceremonious visit to Edinburgh and perhaps remarked upon his Secretary's building activities as he rode down to Holyrood.

Situated as it is to-day, the old house is scarcely seen to advantage, being hemmed in by derelict property belonging to the Town Council—property which, unfortunately, could not be included in the sale when the Marquess of Bute purchased Acheson House from the Council with a view to saving it from demolition under a city slum clearance scheme. Thanks to this private enterprise the building, which was quite recently a human rabbit-warren sheltering fourteen families, is now transformed into the aristocratic home its original founder had planned (with the addition, one must point out, of most modern bathrooms a-gleam



THE DOORWAY OF ACHESON HOUSE

(Photo by arrangement with the S.M.T. Magazine and Scottish Country Life)

with white enamel and chromium, and an equally up-to-date kitchen).

Before entering the house there are several external points of interest, chief among these being the fact that Acheson House is the sole survivor of Edinburgh's courtyard mansions. One may, therefore, enter from the main street through a doorway bearing the date 1550 and an inscription concerning its removal from the demolished Anchor Close and its re-erection here. Passing under its pious motto, "O Lord in The is Al my Traist," one enters the front courtyard and can admire the perfect renovation of the outer walls and the mellow colouring of the new roof of Arbroath slates.

A second entrance leads from Bakehouse Close, opposite "The Speaking House," so called from the numerous admonitory inscriptions on its façade and now occupied by the Corporation Museum. Here, too, there is a pleasant courtyard, its grey paving enlivened by a tiny inset lawn. The main doorway of the house

is of particular interest, being adorned with the Acheson coat of arms showing a cock standing upon a horn, with the appropriate motto "Vigilantibus." The date of foundation flanks a monogram incorporating the initials of Sir Archibald and his wife Margaret Hamilton.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the mansion's interior is the brightness, which is in such contrast to its rather gloomy surroundings. Pale-tinted walls, clever illumination and, above all, light-coloured woods, create an atmosphere of sunshine and warmth. This is particularly noticeable in one of the bedrooms which has been panelled with unpolished pine. The old staircases have been too narrow to admit of elaborate treatment, and here, also, the flat balusters are made of light unvarnished wood, though the attic stair boasts some which survive from the original building.

On the ground floor the large dining-hall is a noble apartment with vast fireplace and massive beams supporting the ceiling, many of them three centuries old. The drawing-room is specially charming with its walls hung with warm damask of reddish hue and its balcony looking down into the courtyard. Neat little squares in the hangings reveal light switches and draw one's attention to the wall lamps and gratings for central heating that bring modern aid to this revival of a

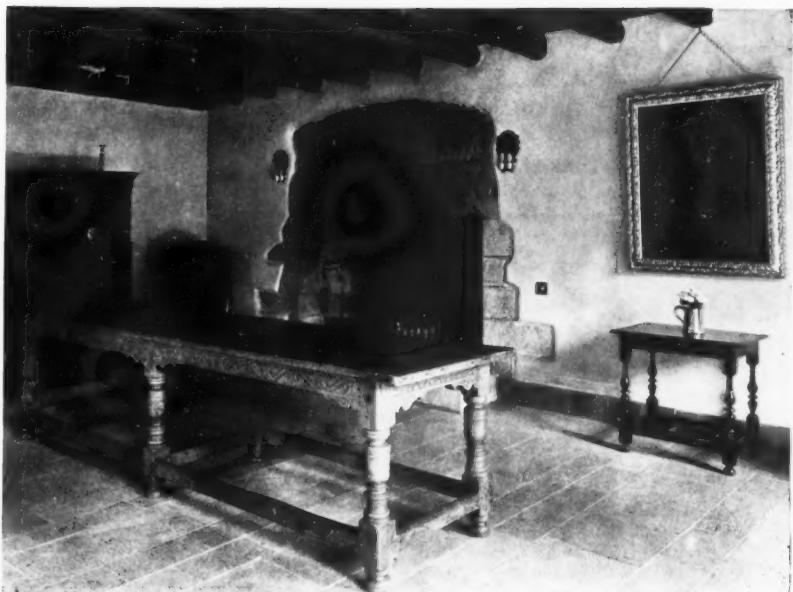


THE DRAWING-ROOM
Specially woven Old Glamis linen damask hangings

noble old house. The ceiling of this room is worthy of special attention, being a copy in style of the many fine plaster ceilings still to be found in such Edinburgh buildings as Mowbray House, Moray House and Croft-an-Righ. Among its various devices are the cock and horn of the Acheson crest, the dates 1633—when King Charles I visited Edinburgh—and 1937—when King George VI made his Coronation visit to the Scottish capital: two dates, also, that happily link the history of the old mansion, the one commemorating its foundation, the other recording the commencement of its restoration.

This ceiling brings into prominence one of the most notable attractions of Acheson House in its new form—the delightful blending of old and new which resulted from the co-operation between Mr. Hurd, the architect, and various local craftsmen. The design for the drawing-room ceiling, planned by Mr. Pilkington Jackson in collaboration with the architect, was carried out by an Edinburgh plasterer. Another ceiling in the pine-panelled bedroom, designed by Mr. Hurd and carved by Mr. Jackson, very charmingly commemorates the Coronation of 1937 with its initials GR and ER and its representation of the sword and sceptre of the old Scottish regalia.

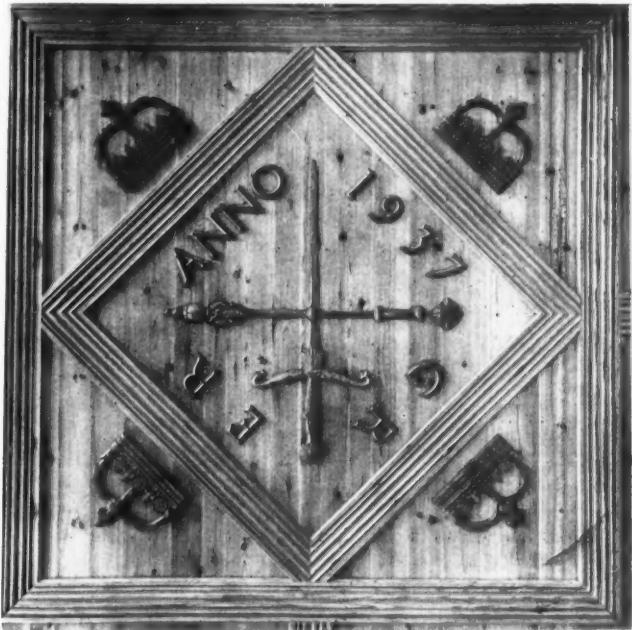
Throughout the house decorative and picturesque fittings prove the artistry and excellence of Scottish craft workers: the drawing-room hangings are of damask from



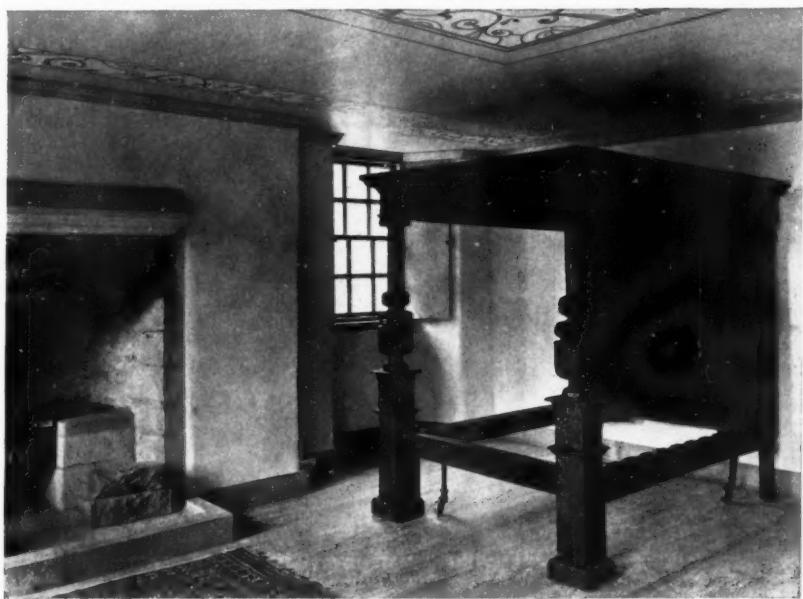
THE DINING HALL—TILL LATELY A BUILDER'S STORE WITH AN EARTH FLOOR. The portrait, lent by the Marquess of Bute, is of Napier of Merchiston, inventor of logarithms



WROUGHT IRONWORK INTRODUCING THE ACHESON ARMS ON THE MAIN STAIRCASE



CARVED PINEWOOD CEILING COMMEMORATING THE CORONATION



A BEDROOM WITH A PAINTED CEILING
The bed lent by the Marquess of Bute from Mountstuart

Dundee; the wall-sconces of brass, some designed from the Acheson crest, others bearing thistle and oak-leaf, are of local work; reproductions of old-time basket grates and fire-dogs have been made by one blacksmith; a wrought-iron balustrade panel of the cock and horn was carried out by another; and all this valuable encouragement and partnership of art and craft is largely due to the Scottish Country Industries Development Trust, which finds employment for those craftsmen who are helping to preserve the real beauty and dignity of ancient trades almost lost in our age of mass production.

Now that the aristocratic mansion has been swept and garnished and stands ready, as the Marquess of Bute hopes, to receive a new tenant, it forms a notable proof of the possibilities of judicious restoration and the preservation of what had been condemned for demolition by the city authorities, regardless of its historical and architectural appeal. It is, too, a symbol of the movement to restore to the Canongate something of its vanished greatness, and no visitor to Edinburgh should miss the opportunity afforded by the Marquess of Bute and the National Trust of visiting Acheson House and appreciating its harmonious blending of ancient romance and modern artistry.

MARIE W. STUART.

SALMON v. TROUT

SOME CONSIDERATIONS AND COMPARISONS

By J. ARTHUR HUTTON

SALMON and trout are not always good neighbours. In some rivers they seem to jog along comfortably together, but I know of waters where trout are regarded almost as vermin, and to be destroyed by every possible method. There is no doubt that old cannibal trout can be almost worse than pike, and that they levy heavy toll on the stock of salmon parr and smolts, and I suppose they do not object to making a meal off some of their grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

On the other hand, in good trout waters salmon can be worse than a nuisance; in fact, many owners of trout fisheries object strongly to their presence. When one is fly-fishing it is sometimes most annoying to have to be continually unhooking and returning small salmon parr only a few inches long, nor can it be good for these little beggars to be handled in this manner. Also parr are greedy little beasts and consume a large amount of the food supply, so that there is less left for the trout, with consequent deterioration in their quality. In many of the salmon rivers most of the trout are small and thin and not worth catching.

So far as I can judge, it is mainly a question of the food supply. If there are ample supplies of food there is probably enough for both, and one can get good trout fishing even though salmon are plentiful. If, on the other hand, the supplies of food are scanty, then the trouble begins, and it is really a case of "Salmon v. Trout." One cannot have large numbers of both, and one has to make up one's mind which is the best for the river.

One cannot lay down a hard and fast rule applicable to all waters alike. Each case ought to be taken separately and judged on its own merits. I can think of two extreme examples. So far as I know, the Aberdeenshire Dee has not a very plentiful supply of food, but as regards numbers (not size) it is probably the most productive salmon river in Britain. In a case like this it would be folly to try and improve the trout-fishing by artificial hatching, or otherwise, at the expense of the salmon-fishing.

Of the other extreme the Test provides a very good example. Here we have some of the best and most valuable trout fisheries in this country, and a mile or so of bank on this river will command a very high rent. In the Lower Test below Romsey there is some quite good salmon-fishing. I understand that a few salmon do manage to get up into the upper waters, where they are anything but welcome. If any serious attempt were made to facilitate their invasion of the higher reaches, many strong and vigorous objections would be made, for there would never be any salmon-fishing worth talking about, and in all probability some injury would be done to the trout-fishing.

Now, between these two extremes there are many variations, and so I repeat that each case should be judged on its own merits.

There are several other aspects of the matter which require consideration, and I will deal first with the economic or material side of the question. It can be argued that all our rivers should be utilised to the fullest possible extent in order to add to the national food supply. If one were to carry this idea to its logical conclusion it would be advisable to put an entire stop to all rod-fishing and to regard our rivers solely as breeding and rearing grounds for salmon in order to provide an ample harvest for the nets. I do not suppose that anyone would dare to

advocate such a drastic policy and for one reason alone—most of the money spent in protecting the salmon while they are in fresh water is provided by the rod-fishermen.

Then, again, it might be suggested that we could increase the stock by constructing fish-passes or by blowing up falls and other obstructions in order to open up additional spawning and rearing grounds, and, further, to start large fish-hatcheries. Unfortunately, fish-passes cost a lot of money and are not always effective, and, as regards artificial hatching, no one can say with any certainty whether it will pay or not. We know what Nature can do, but, as has been so aptly said by Mr. Calderwood, we are absolutely ignorant as to whether "Mankind can do any better than Nature."

There is also another point to be considered, namely, the question of pollution. Several of our rivers have pure water in their upper reaches but are heavily polluted lower down, and that is the main reason why many of them are not producing as many mature salmon as one might expect them to do. In cases like that it would be folly to spend a lot of money in breeding and rearing parr up to the smolt stage if they are only to be poisoned by the thousand when they are passing through the polluted area on their way to the sea.

Further, one ought not to ignore the trout fishermen. As a rule, the best salmon-fishing is in the middle and lower reaches of our rivers, and the best trout-fishing is in the tributaries and upper waters, and more especially in those stretches which are inaccessible to salmon. In such waters there would never be anything but very poor salmon-fishing, if any at all. Now for the few hundreds who fish for salmon, there are many thousands (many of them working-men) who fish only for trout, and for that reason I should deprecate anything which might injure their sport. The greatest happiness of the greatest number.

If one is to compare salmon and trout fishing, I should say that the latter requires the more skill, whereas the former depends for success mainly on experience. You have got to catch the trout, but the salmon will try and catch you, and to enable him to do this you have to know when to fish, where to fish, and what to fish with.

I have often been asked which I prefer—salmon or trout fishing—and I find it a difficult question to answer. Salmon-fishing is a real gamble. One may rent a really good beat for a month and never have a single chance of catching a fish. The river may be in heavy flood all the time, or it may be hopelessly low, or there may be no fish in the particular part of the river where you are fishing.

"There's aye something wrong when I'm fishing here." I know what it is to fish on a cold day in the early spring when nothing is showing and when one begins to doubt if there is a single salmon in one's beat. On the other hand the trout are always there, and that is some consolation even when the conditions are unfavourable for catching them. Further, trout-fishing provides many more days when there is a chance of catching fish. Some salmon beats are no good except in the spring, and in others there is no fishing at all except in the late autumn, when the salmon are getting stale and coloured and hardly worth catching.

Taking everything into consideration, I think that there is little doubt that, though one may get more thrills in salmon-fishing, in the long run trout-fishing will provide one with more real pleasure and recreation.



MR. J. A. HUTTON WITH A 58½ LB. NORWEGIAN SALMON
(From "Salmon," by W. L. Calderwood, Edward Arnold, 6s.)

A FISHERMAN'S DIARY

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS—WORKING-MEN ANGLERS—NOTES FROM RIVERS—CO-OPERATION



ANOTHER January heralds another season, bringing with it, let us hope, better salmon fishing than in 1938, plenty of water and a great run of fish. It is a pity that the elements and the powers above cannot alone be held responsible for the vicissitudes of salmon rivers. Unfortunately, it is often the injudicious work of man that causes fisheries to deteriorate, rivers to become foul and uninhabitable, and the free passage to and from the sea of salmon and sea trout difficult or impossible.

Now, although rods and tackle are stored at the end of a season and most trout and salmon anglers hibernate in contemplative inactivity, certain associations, who look after the interests of the fisherman and his rivers, are in action all the time, doing their part to make possible his sport, while he, unwittingly, often takes his fishing and a fishable river for granted, oblivious of their continuous efforts on his behalf.

A RESOLUTION

The National Association of Fishery Boards, the Fresh Water Biological Association, the Central Council for Rivers Protection, the Water Pollution Research Board, and the Salmon and Trout Association, as well as the fishery side of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, exist for his benefit, whether he is salmon, trout or general angler. It is they who endeavour to keep his rivers clean and accessible and help to solve all those problems connected with fisheries.

It is only by a finer understanding between fishermen and these bodies which act on his behalf, that rivers which have deteriorated can be improved and those which are still valuable fishing waters can be kept as such.

A feeling that the machinery for the care of our rivers is too decentralised, and that a definite policy as regards water administration and water supply is desirable, has resulted in the formation of Field-Marshal Lord Milne's Committee, whose findings can only prove beneficial if fishermen generally show interest in them and make up their minds to co-operate as they do on the river bank and in the same spirit.

Let "Co-operation" be our resolution for 1939 in all matters concerning fishing and rivers.

MORE CO-OPERATION

Talking of co-operation, we publish in this issue a letter from the secretary of the National Association of Fishery Boards, asking owners of trout waters, who annually net their rivers for coarse fish and grayling, to join in a scheme for the transference of these fish to the waters of certain working-men's angling clubs (who would gladly arrange and pay for the transport).

This experiment has been tried with success on a certain stretch of the Test, and it is hoped that many owners will offer their fish, thus giving great pleasure to others less fortunate than themselves.

Of course, this is only a side line of the N.A.F.B.'s activities. But it is a most commendable scheme, and it is as well to remember that the National Federation of Anglers has an enormous membership and an important say in fishing politics.

The kindly gesture of a supply of unwanted fish will not be forgotten.

THE ROD FISHERMAN'S POINT OF VIEW

This week, Mr. Arthur Hutton, that most respected of fishermen, compares the merits of salmon and trout in our rivers, under the title "Salmon v. Trout." He writes clearly from the rod fisherman's point of view, and it is interesting that one whose name is always connected with the catching of salmon, and who is without question one of the greatest authorities on its life and habits, should take the part of the trout.

FLOOD PRECAUTIONS

This is the time of year when floods may be expected. In the south and in those parts of Britain where there are water meadows, there is usually a system of drainage which entails the use of side streams, drains, carriers, or "lakes" (a good Dorset word)—call them what you will. They fulfil their purpose by the proper adjustment of hatches or sluices. These are effective when properly controlled, but often they are neglected, and so rendered useless. It is wise to see that they are in working order and properly adjusted, and the waterways themselves kept clear. Failure to do this can result in much unnecessary flooding and damage.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

Thanks to the very kind co-operation of Dr. E. B. Worthington, Director of the Fresh-water Biological Association's headquarters at Wray Castle on the banks of Lake Windermere, and Dr. J. Berry, Superintendent of the Southern Station at University College, Southampton (the "Avon Research," which this year becomes the branch of the Association for southern rivers), and the centre near Cambridge, which carries on an intensive study of coarse fish, we hope to include, from time to time, notes in *simple language* designed to tell the angler about interesting points which turn up in the course of scientific study.

The F.B.A. is dependent very greatly on voluntary support, and we hope that all fishermen will realise its very important and useful work and how well it is placed, with centres in the north, the south, and in the Fens, to assist them.

We invite fishermen to send us their problems.

"SALMON"—A REVIEW

Mr. Calderwood, who was Mr. Menzies' predecessor as Inspector of Salmon Fisheries for Scotland, is, in his retirement, very well placed for writing about his scientific and piscatorial experiences with salmon. He visited Canada and Newfoundland, and was in touch with the experts all over the world. These reminiscences are full of incident and instruction, and make excellent reading.

He has most interesting things to say about the food of salmon, the efficiency of natural spawning, and the marking of fish. He is amusing when he writes of poachers, though I must say he is rather encouraging what might be taken for an unintentional breach of the law when he says (in another chapter): "Comparatively few people have taken the trouble to visit spawning streams in the dark of a winter's night, and to wade

upstream with a flashlight in amongst the salmon. . . . Many fish can be seen spawning in daylight, but it is at night that the great show takes place."

Here are two sayings of great wisdom . . . there are many more besides:—of *the Ghillie*. "I think he is best when he does not seek to control the person he is with, but to assist him."

And, writing of the man who is a great angler, he says:—

"Although he is not yet in touch his concentration along his line is intense."

This is the pleasantest little book for the fisherman that I have seen this year. (Edward Arnold, 6s.)

SPAWNING NOTES

All rivers have been high, and in most cases conditions have been unfavourable. Here are a few reports:

ABERDEENSHIRE DEE.—Plenty of fish on redds had good chance of finishing before the rise on December 16th. Hoped that big spate will not spoil winter pools.

WELSH DEE.—Good spawning year. One thousand eight hundred beds counted in tributaries, 600 in Alwen. Too much water in main river.

DON.—Spawning beds had not full amount of fish owing to marked scarcity of autumn fish. Very high river.

EXE.—Very few fish spawning in Dulverton district. Few between Helebridge and Bridgetown. Main spawning between 10th and 20th November. Most up at Withypool. Poor season.

HALLADALE.—Good. Fish plentiful. No disease seen. No frost till late. Plenty of water to prevent crowding, but not too much.

TORRIDGE.—After a bad year for both nets and rods, river very high, conditions unsuitable. Too high to estimate number of fish, probably very few.

TEIFY.—Rod and net catch very bad 1938. Stock of fish may not be as small as generally believed, certainly less than previous years. C.F. nets 1938 under 7 tons from a river that once produced 40 tons.

TEST.—There are many salmon up as high as Longstock.

USK.—It seems that this has been an excellent spawning year for trout and a less good one for salmon. The height of the water makes a definite estimate difficult.

SOUTH-WESTERN AREA.—Continuous rains during November kept rivers high and dirty, so impossible to get any idea of numbers of fish going up to spawning beds.

During the first week in December, when streams fined down for a couple of days, inspection of well known redds showed that several of these had been worked, and in some cases the fish were seen at work on them.

Since then rivers have again been high and dirty, so difficult to give any really reliable spawning report; but numbers of spawning fish are certainly more than anticipated from poor net and rod and line catches recorded during the fishing season.

COMMENT.—Complaint overheard on the lower Test alluding to inability of many salmon to get above Romsey: "It is like keeping 500 hens in your back yard down here!"

ROY BEDDINGTON.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE SKI RACES, 1938

THIS year the annual match between Oxford and Cambridge was held at Sestrière, this being the third time that the races have been held in Italy. Unfortunately there was not much snow. When the first party arrived from Oxford and Cambridge on December 6th, the sun was shining brightly, but there was only six inches of snow on the runs that were open. On the 8th, a dense mist settled over the mountains. This remained for five days, during which time about a foot of snow fell. On the 13th, the sun shone through and we enjoyed good weather for a day or two, to be revisited by the mist on the 17th.

The standard of ski-ing was superior to that of former years. This year it was possible to choose six first-class skiers from Cambridge who have a thorough knowledge of the technique of ski-ing as well as the ability to go fast. From these a team of five were chosen. In the past Cambridge may have been known for their capability of taking things straight, but technique was not one of their assets, nor were they always capable of "holding" their *schusses*. Slightly behind these first six were five others who have proved themselves to be good skiers and who have been awarded their colours.

Oxford, who have in the past trained to a finer degree than Cambridge, have recently turned out such skiers as Jimmy Palmer-Tomkinson, who was in the British team at the Olympic Games in 1936. Also Robert Redhead, who is with us again this year, though not eligible to compete. Last year he was runner-up for the F.I.S. team. This year Oxford have not been so fortunate in producing a sufficient number of first-class skiers. Their team consisted of

DONALD GARROW, the Oxford captain, who skied magnificently, especially in a race against the Italian Universities.

MIKE DAVIES, "ACE" NESBITT, M. SELIGMAN, IAN TETLEY, made up the rest of the team. They are promising skiers, but were not able to beat their rivals. Last year Oxford won all races, owing partly to their careful training before the race. This year the tables have been turned, and Cambridge won all four events.

The Cambridge team for the straight and slalom races consisted of:

MIKE MUIR, the captain, a very fast skier.

CHRIS DODD, whose style and technique are admirable.

PETER WADDELL, again a very fast skier and one who keeps his feet together.

DAVID BRADLEY, whose style in a slalom is beyond reproach, and

ARNOLD FAWCUS, the secretary of the Club, who runs well and can do a fast slalom.

On the 17th a race was held between a team from the Italian Universities of Turin and a combined team from Oxford and Cambridge. This is the first time that this race has been run, and ended in an outstanding victory for the British Universities, who took the first five places in the straight race and the first four in the combined straight and slalom. It is hoped that this race will become an annual event.

In the match between Oxford and Cambridge, the downhill race was run over the Banchetta course on December 21st. Some very fast times were returned.

Peter Waddell and Chris Dodd skied magnificently, and only two-fifths of a second separated them. In earlier races they had head-heated more than once, and it was unusual for them to be separated by over a second. Seligman of Oxford skied fast, but fell several times, with the result that he came in ninth.

The race was run in fairly good weather, but a mist came up the valley during the latter stages, and threatened to make it difficult for the last of the competitors. Snow conditions were good, as it had snowed the night before, and covered up some bare patches of grass and shrubs.

The slalom was held in the afternoon on the Sises run, and was organised and timed by the Italians. By now the mist, which had been gathering in the morning, had enveloped the whole of the course, and only occasionally was visibility more than twenty yards. The course had been set by Hans Nöbl, the "Maestro" of Sestrière, and consisted of a fairly open and fast slalom with a vertical descent of about 700ft., which had to be raced over twice.

Donald Garrow skied extremely well and finished first, which was a great credit to him, as very shortly before the race he had had a very bad fall, which shook him badly and gave him a wrenched thigh. Cambridge took the next five places, with only twenty seconds separating the first and last man.

The Langlauf was held on December 22nd. The course was very nearly eight miles long through powder-snow and woods, and was run with the thermometer showing thirteen degrees of frost. It was too long a course when compared with the amount of training that had been done, as was shown by the difference in times. Bradley and Arnhold, having had considerable experience, were easily first and second. Earle made a very fine effort, running for the first time.

JUMPING

A jump had to be specially built, as the two existing jumps had not a sufficient covering of snow and the run-out was strewn with rocks. The jump that was built was not capable of more than thirty metres, and the hill was rather flat. The angle of the take-off made people go unusually high, and sent experienced jumpers so high as to scare them. Bradley is a fine jumper, having a very good style and a fair amount of experience. He has been known to jump over fifty metres, and on this jump managed twenty-six and twenty-six and a half metres. Ferguson also has a good style, but does not always spring off correctly. He fell once, but, fortunately, beyond the dead line. He made the longest jump of twenty-seven metres. Merz was the only other jumper who showed that he had some previous experience. Garrow, a beginner at jumping, is very promising and should turn out well. Fawcus gives plenty of spring, but is apt to raise his right leg in the air and to let his points go down.

IVAN C. STRUTT.



A VIEW OF SESTRIERE FROM MOUNT ALPETTE. ROBERT EDEN (CAMBRIDGE) DURING A PRACTICE RUN WATCHED BY SOME OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY TEAMS

CORRESPONDENCE

THE EUSTON ARCH

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—I have been honoured to receive a handsome bronze medal from the L.M.S. Railway Company to commemorate the centenary of the opening of the London and Birmingham Railway. With some surprise I see that the obverse bears a representation of the celebrated arch, or more accurately propylea, to Euston which is to be destroyed in the re-building of the station. With surprise, because, although it is natural that this splendid monument should have been chosen to symbolise the railway's centenary, it is surprising that the Directors should acquiesce in the destruction of what they evidently regard as a noble symbol or, conversely, acknowledge as a symbol what they have acquiesced in condemning. But perhaps I am being unjust to the Directors. On representations being made to the Company and to Mr. Percy Thomas, the architect, by the R.I.B.A. and the Georgian Group, the original plans were altered to admit of the arch being re-erected in front of the new station, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Transport and the Commissioner of Police. It is the latter who has finally negatived the scheme for re-erecting the arch in front of the station, for reasons of traffic.

But if the Directors regard the arch with the pride and affection implied by the medal, perhaps they will see to its re-erection elsewhere.—GEORGIAN.

THE RABBITS BILL

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—There is no doubt that the "Prevention of Damage by Rabbits" Bill is by no means ideal, but it will go a long way towards protecting agriculture, and particularly grassland farming, from the demands of the wild rabbit industry in this country. It will also do a good deal to prevent the misuse of the steel trap by persons who, to meet the demands of the rabbit industry, are called upon to supply regular catches per night over a regular season. Few people wish to see rabbits exterminated. In small numbers they are easily dealt with, and do little harm. When casually supplied from such land they are acceptable in most neighbouring houses or cottages as a change of diet. That is a very different thing from the commercial trapper working a large number of traps in an infested area. To keep his numbers up, he has to move on as soon as his nightly catch begins to fall.

Rabbit factories have recently been started by The British Rabbits Industrial Development Company at Pembroke and in Norfolk. The carcasses are frozen, and the pelts processed. The Pembroke factory is already treating 20,000 rabbits a week, which is only a small fraction of the rabbits sent from the district by road or rail to the industrial centres. Surely the wild rabbit trade, as distinct from rabbits caught on non-infested land, should only be supplied from recognised warrens, or farms? It seems unlikely that the rabbit factories, for instance, will force themselves into liquidation for the benefit of agriculture, by exterminating or reducing to a minimum the stock they need. It is useless one man controlling his rabbits unless his neighbour does also. This Bill will probably go a long way towards controlling the rabbit industry, to the benefit of agriculture.

—W. H. BUCKLEY.

BIRLING GAP

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to a statement on page 595 of your issue of December 17th under the heading of Country Notes—"Sussex-by-Sea." I am not aware of the source of your information, but I hope you will be able to correct some of the more outstanding misstatements of fact which appear in the first part of this article.

There has never been any question of the sale of 200 acres to the Eastbourne Corporation; the circumstances are as follows.

Four hundred and two acres of land at Birling Gap were reserved under the Hailsham Planning Scheme No. 1 as part of the Downland area for which the East Sussex County Council had undertaken responsibility. This Scheme came into operation on June 25th last, and the question of compensation to which the reservation gave rise was referred by the Estate to arbitration on a claim for nearly £43,000. The



COMMEMORATING THEIR VICTIM

award of the Official Arbitrator was £17,600 for compensation, and in addition to this a substantial sum was payable for the cost of the arbitration, the hearing having lasted for four days.

The County Council, as you know, have in hand the preservation of some 35,000 acres of the South Downs, of which over 26,000 acres have now been permanently preserved, and the payment of so large a sum as £17,600 could only have resulted in the sacrifice of some other essential area of the Downs and the County Council were not prepared to face so high an award. Applications for assistance were, therefore, made to the National Trust, who were prepared to find £5,000, subject, however, to the purchase by them of at any rate part of the property (it will be borne in mind that the compensation to be paid was for sterilisation in the hands of the present owner), and also to the Eastbourne Corporation, who were, however, not prepared to give any financial assistance to the County Council.

In the absence of further assistance in the one month available the County Council saw no alternative but to withdraw the relevant provisions of the Hailsham Scheme.—W.R.EDWARDS, *Deputy Clerk of the East Sussex County Council.*

[We are glad of this opportunity to express regret for the inversion of the facts in the Note referred to. The information was derived from a local inhabitant whose accuracy there was no reason to doubt, but should obviously have been checked. This letter has the further advantage of drawing renewed attention to the danger threatening Birling Gap, where the position is no less serious than we described.—ED.]

COARSE FISH

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—A scheme is in course of preparation by this Association to enable coarse fish angling clubs to benefit, when netting operations are carried out on trout streams. Very briefly, the idea is for the Association to make arrangements with owners and club secretaries for the latter to remove any coarse fish and grayling which are not wanted, to add to their stock. The clubs will, of course, arrange and pay for the transport, but, in the majority of cases, cannot afford to pay anything further for the fish. So far there has been a very encouraging response from clubs and associations, from which it would appear that the scheme fills a real need. Unfortunately, however, there has been no corresponding enthusiasm on the part

of the owners, without whose co-operation no results are possible.

I should therefore be very grateful for the help of your columns in bringing the scheme to the notice of those owners of trout waters who are in the habit of netting their streams for coarse fish and grayling during the trout close season. It is probably too late to expect any such transfers to be carried out this winter, but if any owner would care to co-operate with us next year, a post-card to that effect would be much appreciated. I shall be glad to supply further details to anyone who is interested, but at the moment the demand is so great that I do not think it is worth while for any more clubs to apply. What we want now is a supply to meet this demand, and I feel sure, from my experience of fishermen, that the average owner would be only too happy to help his less fortunate brother-anglers to this extent.—C. F. WALKER, *Secretary, National Association of Fishery Boards.*

THE OLD TOWN HALL, WREXHAM

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—While I deplore as vigorously as anyone the destruction of historic buildings, your statement in COUNTRY LIFE of December 17th that the necessity for a road-widening scheme, at the point where this building stands, "has not been proved," is remarkable. To anyone who knows Wrexham as well as I do the necessity is plain, though the consequences may be unfortunate. The Town Hall stands at a corner where three streets meet, and the local traffic difficulties (apart from through traffic, which should be diverted) are very great. On one side of the Hall is a narrow street coming up a hill, and taking only one line of traffic. The other two streets are busy centres and main streets of this congested town, and the Town Hall is not centred on one of them. The policeman on point duty here has a most difficult job and has often to hold up long lines of cars. People have to come into Wrexham on their business affairs and, even when through traffic is at its lowest, it is far from pleasant to shop in Wrexham. It is true that little attempt seems to be made to force tradesmen's vans to draw in to the kerb, but the main streets are narrow and insufficient even for local traffic, which at the point in question is often most vexatiously held up. I certainly hold the view that no new trunk road should lead into the town, but that would not solve the difficulties of the situation.—R. STEWART-BROWN.

A BERKSHIRE MANOR HOUSE

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—You may be interested in this photograph of Ashbury Manor, perhaps the most interesting mediaeval house in Berkshire. Ashbury was given to Glastonbury by King Ethelwulf in 854 and remained in the possession of the Abbey until the Dissolution. In 1544 it was granted to Sir William Essex of Lambourn, from whose descendants it was acquired more than three centuries ago by the first Lord Craven, to whose family it still belongs.

The house was a monastic grange, and, though built of local materials, it is of marked West Country character. It dates from the end of the fifteenth century, and is L-shaped in plan. The upper part of the front of the porch was re-built in brick in 1607.

To the left is the hall block and to the right the offices, while at the back of the former is a small wing containing two rooms, a staircase and garde-robe. The hall, now divided, has finely moulded beams and carved bosses, one with a Tudor rose. Above is the solar, separated from the porch chamber by a contemporary wooden screen. This range has a magnificent timber roof of collar-braced type, with wall posts and cusped wind-braces. The section over the solar has a deep wall plate elaborately carved. Most of the original windows remain, except in the kitchen block, where only one survives. The great fireplace remains in the hall, though now concealed by a modern grate. The door from the porch to the screen's passage is original and of two layers studded with nails. Several of the other doors are also ancient. The house is surrounded on three sides by a moat, partly natural and partly artificial.—E. T. LONG.



ASHBURY MANOR

KING CANUTE'S HORNS

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Everyone must rejoice that through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Pusey Horn has gone to the Victoria and Albert Museum. It was originally given by King Canute as a legal conveyance of property (now known as the Pusey estates in Berkshire) to an officer of his army as reward for gallant conduct. A similar token of conveyance is the much larger Horn of Ulf, one of York Minster's most treasured possessions.

Now exhibited in the Chapter House, the horn was given to the Minster about 900 years ago as the title deed to extensive property in East Yorkshire. As the Minster still derives part of its revenue from this source, one might well ask, "Who was Ulf?"

He was a Danish jarl and brother-in-law of Canute. His three sons had quarrelled ceaselessly as to which of them should succeed his father. Finally the old chieftain settled the dispute by deciding to give all his possessions to the Church. Accordingly, he journeyed to York Minster, and, filling his largest drinking horn with wine, drank the whole contents at one draught and then placed the horn on the high altar as a legal conveyance of the "Land of Ulf."

The horn is 29½ ins. long on the outside curve, and measures 5 ins. across the mouth. It is made of ivory, and is carved with Eastern devices which suggest that it was probably 1,000 years old even in Ulf's day.

Tradition declares that the horn was given to Ulf by Canute—who seems to have had quite a good stock of them!—G. B. WOOD.

A CORNISH SUPERSTITION

TO THE EDITOR

SIR,—Possibly your readers may be interested in the enclosed photograph of a pair of "Devil Houses," which I came across while passing through the village of Veryan in South Cornwall.

There are two pairs of these picturesque little round houses, one at either end of the village, and they were built, I am told, to keep away the Devil.

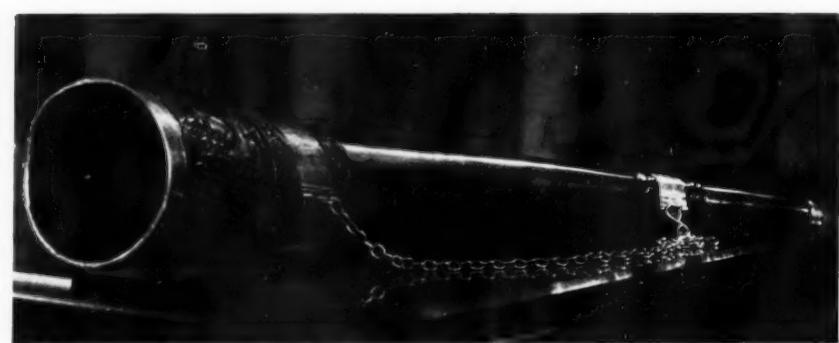
In the photograph it will be noticed that they are both under the protection of a cross, and possibly their circular shape prevents his "Satanic Majesty" from lurking in some dark corner.

It would be interesting to hear from readers who have come across other quaint survivals of Cornish superstition.—R. D. EVANS.

A DEVOTED FOSTER-MOTHER

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—From time to time you have printed some very interesting accounts of foster-parents. This last summer we have had a most amusing and, I think, unique instance of this sort under observation. Our dog, which is something between a terrier and a spaniel, but a very lovable animal for all that, had her first litter of four puppies quite late in the spring. The cat, which was quite friendly with the dog as



THE HORN OF ULF

they had been brought up together, began to take a maternal interest in the puppies as soon as they could toddle around the shed, and, strange to say, the mother dog did not object but appeared glad to share her duties with the cat, as this allowed her to get off on her own concerns once again. At this juncture the cat produced a batch of kittens, two of which were allowed to remain with her, and we naturally supposed that her friendship and interest in the puppies would now entirely cease. However, instead of this being

storage purposes, where it could not possibly have got without help. It was a noticeable fact that the cat did not mourn for her kittens or even look for them, and in the light of her future actions we strongly suspect that she herself had a large share in their untimely end. With the disappearance of the kittens she gave herself entirely to the care of the puppies, and was seldom far from them. They played games and pulled her about, and even pulled mouthfuls of fur from her without protest. One day she evidently made up her mind that their training was due to start, seeing that their own mother was content to leave the matter in her hands.

From the wood adjoining the house she brought in a young rabbit, uninjured, and, going on to the lawn where the puppies were playing, she put it down in front of them. Up the garden path came the rabbit with the pups in full cry, and the cat following a little wide to see fair play and that the rabbit did not get away. Through the gate and down into the field the chase continued, and it was there that the "kill" was made. Presently there was the return journey up the field and down the garden path, with the smallest pup proudly carrying the dead rabbit by the middle of the back, and growling to warn off the other pups!—E. A. LITTEN.



DEVIL HOUSES

the case it was the kittens that very soon ceased to attract her, and, after their eyes were opened, she deliberately removed them from their basket and placed them with the puppies! When we found this out, fearing that the rough play of the puppies might injure them, we again transferred them to their own quarters. The cat did not approve our action and once again put them back with the puppies. What really happened we do not quite know, but one night the stronger of the kittens crawled out of the family nest and next morning it was pretty well past hope, and, in spite of all we could do for it, it died. The remaining kitten absolutely disappeared a few nights after the first tragedy, and it was months later before we discovered its mummified remains in an empty circular zinc rainwater tank used for

PIGEONS IN THE GALE

TO THE EDITOR

SIR,—While walking through St. James's Park during one of the recent gales, I was amused to see that the pigeons were being driven from the air.

Tired of being buffeted about by the wind, they descended on to terra firma and, all facing in the same direction (head on to the wind, thus taking full advantage of their streamlined shape), they congregated in groups of hundreds, strangely reminiscent of worshippers at prayer.

Meanwhile, the gulls, apparently revelling in the boisterous conditions, executed the most amazing aerial manoeuvres with ease and confidence.—E. W. FORSTER.

[These pigeons are not the true park birds, the tamed wood-pigeons with white collars, but are from the squares and buildings, which birds are of domestic origin. The domestic pigeon owes descent to the rock dove of the sea cliffs, and it is interesting to note that the majority of the pigeons here photographed show the blue-grey coloration, light rump and double wing-bar of the ancestral species.—ED.]

PECULIAR MIGRATION MOVEMENT OF WRENS IN NORTH LANCASHIRE

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—As the common wren hardly ever moves from its home quarters, perhaps the following migratory movement of this species may be of interest. One day in mid-October a violent gale swept over Walney Island and evidently swept every bird off the south end of the island, for next morning, when the gale had blown itself out, not a bird of any sort was to be seen. The morning was a beautiful frosty one, with a dead calm. Just before noon common wrens began to appear, and between them and about 3 p.m. scores must have passed the lighthouse, all very low down and all passing south.

As there is no cover on this end of the island, except in the lighthouse garden, wrens are not often seen there at any time.—H. W. ROBINSON.



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P. 455A.

GOLF BY BERNARD DARWIN

ANNALS OF A GREAT LINKS

If ever there was a Christmas intended by Providence for browsing by the fireside over pleasant and not too exhausting literature, this last was the one, and I was lucky in that I received one Christmas present ideally adapted to the purpose. This is "The Prestwick Golf Club. A history and some records," which, after much loyal and devoted research, has just been produced by Mr. James E. Shaw. No club and no links better deserve the epithet "historic" than do those of Prestwick in Ayrshire; and Mr. Shaw, by his digging and delving, has brought to light much that had been lost, and preserved much that would soon have been forgotten. Not only those who know and love a famous course and the friendly and hospitable company to be found there, but all who have any feeling for the romance and tradition of golf will be grateful to him accordingly.

Mr. Shaw properly and patriotically presumes that golf has been played on Prestwick links from time immemorial. Prestwick was the village of the priests, and Monkton (we all know Monkton station, when we come to the holes beyond the Himalayas) was the village of the monks; and Mr. Shaw likes to imagine that they played a match against one another. A more modern and definite fact is that in 1851 some Ayrshire country gentlemen met at the Red Lion and agreed to form a club and subscribe a guinea a year, some of them apparently with reluctance, judging by the extreme difficulty with which they were annually induced to pay. It was a go-ahead club, for within six years of its institution it endeavoured to found an amateur foursome tournament, which ultimately fell through, and within nine years it had successfully founded the Open Championship for that Championship Belt which is to-day an heirloom in the family of the peerless Young Tommy. Those were the days, of course, of the old twelve-hole course within the Wall, and one of my few reasons for ever wishing myself even older than I am is a passionate desire to have seen that course, with its delicious, adventurous dodging from dell to dell. Thank goodness some of the old names survive—the Back of the Cardinal, the Alps, the Sea Headrig. I can tell nearly enough where was the Tunnel and where the Stone Dyke. The Lunch House is there—now, I believe, a receptacle for tools—though there is no hole named after it; but alas! there is no Green Hollow, and could there be any name more beautifully typical of Prestwick? As I look at the old plans, moreover, I find many names of bunkers that I do not know—Sandy Neuk, Precentor's Desk, Slough of Despond, Purgatory, Tom's Bunker, and Willie Campbell's Grave. They have a lovely and a stirring sound, but where are they, and are they there at all? The next time I go to Prestwick—may it be soon!—I must get someone to take me on an archaeological expedition.

Clearly I cannot in one short article even mention a fraction of the history that Mr. Shaw has collected, and it would be futile in mere words to try to do justice to the quite heavenly snapshots of old members which adorn the book. All are charming, though many suggest methods of striking the ball, vigorous but all too mobile, to be avoided according to rigid modern canons; and the most charming of all is of an ancient Professor with a patriarchal white beard and a wooden putter. I must leave out the author's researches into the rather complex tenure under which the land was held "of the Prince and Steward of Scotland" with its "hawkins, huntins, coal-heughs, conies, cony-gairs, doves, dove-cots, smithies, breweries and heather, herezelds, bloodwits and Married Womens Merks." Again, I can say all too little of the pleasant stories of old Prestwick characters, some of them having a much wider fame, such as that very perfect old gentleman, Charlie Hunter, and others of only local repute. Just one of them I must set down. A certain Colonel Wallace wrote to a neighbour:

SIR,—I beg to call your attention to the fact that your bees are encroaching on my garden, and I must beg you to keep them under proper control.

I am, Sir,
Your obedt. servt.

To this the neighbour (alas! he remains anonymous, for he must have been a heavenly person) replied:

DEAR HUGH,—I received your letter and have counted my bees very carefully. I find them all present and correct except one, and that's the one in your bonnet.

Yours sincerely.

The early championships have, I think, the widest general interest, and we can really gain some notion as to the quality of the play, because we have some of the actual cards and we are told the lengths of the holes. Even so, we can only have the dimmest notions, for how are we to make due allowance for

balls and clubs and the green-keeping of nearly eighty years ago? Nevertheless, these records are of the greatest interest. The first card given is that of Andrew Strath, who won in 1865 with a score of 162, Willie Park being second at 164. His three rounds of the twelve holes were respectively 55, 54, and 53. Each time he made what seems a most depressing start: in the first, 7, 5; in the second and third, 6, 6. It must be added, however, that the course began very severely, for the first or Back of the Cardinal hole was 578yds. long, and that was long with a gutty. The second was the Alps, 385yds. long, and there was the famous hill and bunker to carry, and an attempt to get over in two was once stigmatised by the *Ayrshire Express* as "avarice and temerity." The fourth, the Wall, was another long one, and that cost him 5, 7, 5; but he had plenty of threes at the shorter ones, and one two at the eleventh, which was called "The Short." Moreover, we can, from another source, tell what was deemed in those days the "par" play for the course. In the "Life of Old Tom Morris," that fine old golfer, Mr. William Doleman, gives his estimate of it hole by hole and makes it 49. Some of the details are not without interest, in that he makes the par of each of the first two five, though apparently one was nearly 200yds. longer than the other. This, I admit, puzzles me a little. So does the fact that he allows five for both the Alps and the Burn, which measured under 400yds. apiece, and only four for the Home hole, which was apparently 417yds. long. No doubt the holes varied sometimes in length, and we may be sure that Mr. Doleman knew what he was talking about. Therefore, with his figures to help us, we can come to some real appreciation of Young Tommy's winning score in 1870, when his three rounds were 47, 51 and 51, totalling 149. That was but two strokes over perfect play. Comparisons are futile, but still I am wedded to the belief that, taking all the circumstances into consideration, greater golf than that was never played.

Incidentally, Tommy began his first round on that occasion with a three, and if the hole was then 578yds. long, something extraordinary must have happened; it cost him five in each of the other two, but he had only two sixes and one seven in the last round at the Wall hole. What one would like to know is how many sixes were taken by an heroic amateur, Mr. Moffat, in 1863. I should judge that he had not very many, since a large number of his holes must have been more expensive. Nevertheless, he handed in his card like a man—233. If he was a sensible man he must have told his friends that he was "nineteen under sevens" rather than "seventeen over sixes." I should like to shake him by the hand, though I can only do so, in imagination, through Mr. Shaw's book.

THE SPRING HANDICAP ENTRIES

In the arctic weather which we have been experiencing, the publication of the entries for the Spring Handicaps seemed to herald, like the single swallow, the advent of another spring, although in actual fact the period of the year when flat-racing re-opens on the famous Carholme at Lincoln is usually ushered in under conditions very little less unpleasant. The survival of this fixture is one of the marvels of the racing world. Annually ninety per cent. of those who attend it solemnly avow that they will never go again. But another March, after three months' hibernation, changes all these intentions, for Lincoln, despite its lack of comfort, acts as an initial stimulus to goad one on through the exigencies of another racing season.

The Lincolnshire Handicap, first run for in 1853, affords the *pièce de résistance* of the three days. This event forms the first leg of what, with the Grand National, is known as the "spring double"; and, parenthetically, let it be said that to attempt to hazard the winner of it before the numbers of the draw appear in the frame is a form of dementia, since in a big field any runner drawn from one to six, numbering from the rails, might as well be in his own stable for all the chance he has of winning. For the contest scheduled for March 22nd, sixty-seven horses have been entered—one less than last year. They consist of seven aged horses, ten six year olds, twenty-one five year olds, twenty-seven four year olds, and two three year olds. No aged horse has won this event since Knight of Burghley was successful in 1883; the last three year old to score was Wolf's Crag, ten years later; the greatest proportion of winners come from among the five year olds. In this category three that appeal at an early glance are Domaha, Flaxman and Alarm Bell. The first of these appeared to be a very unlucky loser of the Cambridgeshire, in which he was badly drawn and, later, found himself shut in at the critical moment. Flaxman, a son of Tranquill's brother, Schiavoni,

emanates from Ireland, where he is trained by Mr. B. Rogers, a son of Mr. J. T. Rogers, who in his time was one of the best amateurs over a country. Alarm Bell is a decidedly useful son of Plantago that was bought by Miss Dorothy Paget for 750gs. at the December Sales. He is under the charge of Mr. Walter Nightingall at Epsom, and though no winner of this race has been turned out from the Surrey centre since the War, he is certain to be in good demand when the call-overs begin.

Next in order of date come the Rosebery Stakes at Kempton Park on Easter Saturday (April 8th) and the Queen's Prize at the same venue on the Monday. The former event—a ten-furlong affair—has attracted thirty-two entrants, among whom attention must be paid to Hesperian and Golden Martlet. A genuine colt, Hesperian was very unlucky last season, when, though he always ran well, something invariably turned up that was a little better. At level weights Golden Martlet would be preferable here, as in this son of Winalot, who comes from that genuine mare, Seradella, Mr. Fred Butters trains an animal that is consistently good. It should be noted that the expensive purchases Thankerton and Seventh Wonder hold nominations. The former, who cost 4,800gs. as a yearling, has been put to hurdling, which may do him good; the latter, a 2,700gs. yearling, is under the care of Mr. Carr of Bolton, who seems to specialise in the reclamation of disappointing horses. The Queen's Prize, run as it is over two miles, is a far more interesting proposition, and has attracted an entry of forty-two, seven of whom are in the name of Miss Dorothy Paget. This enthusiastic owner is now gradually reaping the reward of her outlay, and her successes in 1939 can be anticipated with universal pleasure. An acceptance stage can be allowed to pass before deciding upon the best of her string, but over this

distance Fox Star and Foxchase, as sons of the Ascot Gold Cup winner, Foxlaw, make most appeal at the moment. Another by this horse to remember is Earthstopper, for whom the going never came right last season, while a further interesting entry is Vergilius. Owned by Sir Abe Bailey and trained by the Hon. George Lambton, this five year old cost 1,800gs. as a yearling, and twelve months later was passed on to his present owner for 5,000gs.; so far, he has not won a race, and last season did not run, but as a son of Son-in-Law from the Irish Oaks winner, Haintonette, the dam also of Valerius and Valerian, he should be kept in mind. The line of Son-in-Law is invariably in the ascendant in long-distance races. Though now in his twenty-eighth year, Sir Abe Bailey's grand old warrior, who won the Cesarewitch of 1915, is still as hale and hearty as ever; nowadays, however, he is practically in retirement, and has passed on his heritage of stamina to his sons to transmit to their offspring.

Last of the Spring Handicaps that have closed and merit notice is the City and Suburban, which is down for decision at Epsom on April 19th. This is always a race that takes a deal of winning. The initial list contains thirty-one names, among which those of Golden Sovereign and Comana stand for the best quality. The former, who is a son of Monarch, was very much fancied for the classic events of the past season; true, he was never successful, but the way in which he ran suggested that he would make a handicapper of more than usual ability, and his chance will assuredly come during the forthcoming season. Comana, a son of Manna that, like so many winners, is out of Constellation, is in the same category. Both are worth following whenever they run.

ROYSTON.

THE ESTATE MARKET

REAL PROPERTY: INVESTMENT ATTRACTIONS

THE customary annual reports of the leading firms of estate agents in London and the country agree in one point: that after a brisk beginning, business in 1938 slackened throughout the summer and touched its lowest level at the time of the international crisis, but that since that event there has been a revival. That revival leaves very much still to be desired, but has nevertheless been most welcome. How far it will progress none can predict, and some of the retarding influences are indicated in many of the agency reports, which, however, emphasise the inherent advantages of well selected real property as an investment, and the favourable terms of tenancy or purchase now open to those who are specially interested in country residential property.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

"THE continuing confidence of the public in real estate as an investment," say Messrs. John D. Wood and Co., has been such "that the supply of sound investments has been far below the absorptive power of the market." They go on: "At the same time there has been no general relaxation of caution on the part of buyers, and this is as well, in view of the demerits of some so-called 'ground rents,' and the remote probability of some of the 'ripe' building land ever being covered with houses and works.

"Town-planning and ribbon development are still comparatively new expressions, but those who have to value real estate are aware of the resultant problems, and the delay in getting anything like a decision from the various authorities. The new proposals for allowing all comers to range at will over private property cannot fail to diminish the saleable or lettable value of a great deal of sporting land. Another handicap, not yet embodied in any Bill, is the outcry raised in certain quarters if an owner, in the full legal exercise of his rights, proposes to build, or suggests that somebody else should build, on land anywhere near the areas that have been earmarked as part of the 'Green Belt.' The belief, possibly held by some of the objectors, that an owner's interests can be met by relieving him of part of his liability to taxation is fallacious, inasmuch as it is uncertain that such relief would be granted, and certain that, whatever its amount, it would

fall short of what an owner has a right to expect when dealing with a property.

"An immense acreage has been acquired during the year by local authorities and Government departments, and, however satisfactory it may have been to the vendors, the ultimate reaction on what remains in private ownership can hardly be helpful, seeing that the cost of public acquisitions eventually falls in some form on all rateable and taxable property. Well may the agent and the owner remember with regret the happier circumstances of past years, when private vendors found private purchasers for their property, plenty of promising avenues of re-investment were open, and there was little or no interference with owners as to the manner of dealing with their property."

The impression that to put money into real estate means locking-up funds is discussed by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co., who say that "realty does not lack liquidity as an investment, that is to say, if he goes the right way about it, an owner can raise money in one way or another on the security of real property almost as quickly as on stocks and shares and with the comforting probability that there will be no disastrous fluctuations in value. Substantial sums have again this year gone into the purchase of farms as an investment by powerful permanent corporations. Profits may seldom be very large, but the freedom from serious setbacks is worth a great deal in itself. Of course, where to the advantage of securing a substantial asset is united personal use of a property for residence, the twofold benefit is something almost peculiar to realty. Hardly any form of investment can offer equivalent advantages, quite apart from the chance of eventual capital appreciation by changes in a



ARMSCOTE MANOR, NEAR STRATFORD-ON-AVON

locality. Here it may be remarked that such changes may not always be very agreeable to an occupying owner, though they may mean a higher realisable price."

APPEASEMENT AND APPRECIATION

THE dependence of the market on the course of world affairs is remarked and, after a reference to the "state of emergency" officially ended by the Royal Proclamation in the *London Gazette* of November 25th, Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. say that "while it existed and, indeed, for some days before, conditions in the market for real

property, especially certain types during the height of the crisis, were abnormal and unprecedented.

RISE IN SPORTING RENTS

A VERY cheerful note is sounded about Scottish property, an extensive acreage of which has been dealt with by the firm. They say: "An improvement in the price per acre for Scottish land has compensated to some extent for a slight decrease in the total acreage of such property sold by the firm this year, and the aggregate sales in 1938, though not equal to those in the 'record' year that preceded it, amount to 177,618 acres. The Hebrides, small isolated islands, and the west and north coasts, are increasingly attractive to buyers, because of their comparative remoteness from the army of tourists (and possibly for other reasons that need not be specified), and accessibility has been improved by the new air services. A year ago we reported sales of moors up to 60s. an acre, and this year an estate notable for its grouse bags made 88s. an acre. The sale of about 100,000 acres of forest attests the appeal of deer stalking. Salmon-fishing—still the real luxury sport, as the purchase or tenancy of a beat even on the best rivers is most speculative—has evoked a demand far exceeding the supply, but the number of fish caught has been below average. Scottish arable and grazing estates are in request, partly in the hope that Government aid may be given to those who wish to increase the yield of home-grown produce."

Armscote Manor, near Stratford-on-Avon, referred to on Dec. 31st (p. 668), is for sale by Messrs. Hampton and Sons. ARBITER.

This England . . .



Wrotham Hill—Kent

WHEN next you take your ways about the hills and fields, reflect that it is the labour of man that has given them their final beauty. No traveller two centuries ago could laud the lovely countryside; too many were the marshlands and the wastes, too frequent the unkempt, forbidding woods that harboured lawlessness. And do you know aught of survey work or drainage, of medicine or mechanics? These must a farmer understand as well as his soils, his beasts and his seeds if he is to serve the land well. Bear then with his complaints, and turn a courteous ear if only in gratitude for the pleasure his unceasing work has given—from the chine of beef you passed not by at luncheon to the barley for the Worthington that saved you from fatigue.



ELECTRICITY in the COUNTRY HOUSE

XVIII.—THE ALL-ELECTRIC HOUSE

HERE is a tendency just now to discuss again the question of the all-electric house. In general the discussion usually turns entirely round new houses almost to the exclusion of the complete electrification of existing houses.

In addition, the type of house usually visualised as all-electric is rather smaller than what we term a "country house," and it would appear rather like sacrilege to remove all other forms of heating, lighting and cooking from our old manor houses, but even this is not so unreasonable as we may think.

It appears that the pros and cons of the all-electric house are discussed more loudly at times when the building trade is not at its busiest and that may be one reason for the interest at the present time. When the demand for houses begins to fall it is inevitable that efforts should be made to offer something new and sufficiently attractive to make the public more interested.

The important point about the all-electric house is that it should be designed as such and not be merely a normal house adapted for electric heating, etc. In the first place, the ordinary chimney is a very costly form of ventilator to build when it is only to be used for ventilating purposes, and a considerable proportion of the building cost can be saved by omitting the chimneys. This saving can be used in covering the cost of really first-class electrical equipment. Some adequate form of alternative ventilation is, of course, essential, and this ventilation should be easily controlled and varied according to the conditions both inside and outside the room.

It is not generally considered that temperatures in this country are such that air-conditioning or treatment is essential, but ventilators which can be partially shut at will are an advantage in helping to heat a room rapidly with a minimum consumption of electricity.

A second consideration is that the general design should be such that the complete domestic hot-water system can be fairly compact and not have unnecessary runs of piping to the various taps. For this purpose the only important services are those which are used every day, and any long runs to guests' bed or bath rooms do not matter. By arranging for the main bathroom to be not too far away from the kitchen one electric water-heater will suffice, and this should be situated either in or near this bathroom.

For the all-electric house it is preferable for the water-heater to be of the storage type, and it is important that it should be sufficiently large to give the required service.

The question of heating the various rooms is naturally the most important feature, as it is on this point that the step of "going all-electric" appears to many people a risky one. In any case, a certain amount of low-temperature heating should be installed. This form of heating, which should be controlled by an automatic thermostat, is ideal for the halls, landings, and the kitchen.

For the main rooms it is still advisable to use radiators or



AN EXAMPLE OF A SPECIALLY DESIGNED ALL-ELECTRIC HOUSE
The absence of chimneys is noticeable

heaters which have some glow effect, as we have not yet become accustomed to general heating as opposed to the open fire. As already explained in a previous article, the glowing fire (which may be of the imitation coal fire type) may not be the main source of heat for the room, but it does give that cheerful effect which in any case pleases visitors.

The equipment of the kitchen is rather a matter of cost than of obtaining the apparatus. In addition to the cooker, most kitchens now include a refrigerator. These two units do not need any description. There are, however, two other pieces of electrical kitchen apparatus which are now receiving considerable attention in this country.

These are the electric washing-machine and the electric washing-up machine. Although similar in name, these two are entirely different machines, the former washing clothes and the latter dishes.

Electric washing machines are already fairly well known, and demonstrations can be seen at any electricity showroom. Washing-up machines are, however, much later arrivals, and until recently the models available were too large for houses and were generally supplied to hotels, cafés, etc. During the last year or so smaller models, costing about £20, have been introduced, and these are quite suitable for even small households.

In planning the kitchen it is worth while to arrange for the electrical units to match and fit in with one another as much as possible. It can often be arranged that, when not in use, the units form a smooth continuous top which looks attractive and is useful. If a washing machine is not installed there must be a plug point for this or a wash-boiler in case this is wanted later, and it will not be necessary to stress the necessity of a full number of plug points at various positions all over the house.

The question, however, which will be of the most interest is probably the running cost compared with the ordinary system where coal is used for heating and gas or electricity for cooking. Generally speaking, it will cost more to heat and light an all-electric house than with the other arrangement, but as electricity can be obtained at 1d. or 2d. a unit the extra cost will not be excessive and is considered to be more than offset by the saving in labour, the added convenience, and the cleanliness. Above 2d. per unit it is not a very attractive proposition for continuous use, but in the case of the country cottage or the seaside bungalow, complete electrification is worth its cost at 1d. or more, as the heating requirements are much lower during the times it is likely to be used.

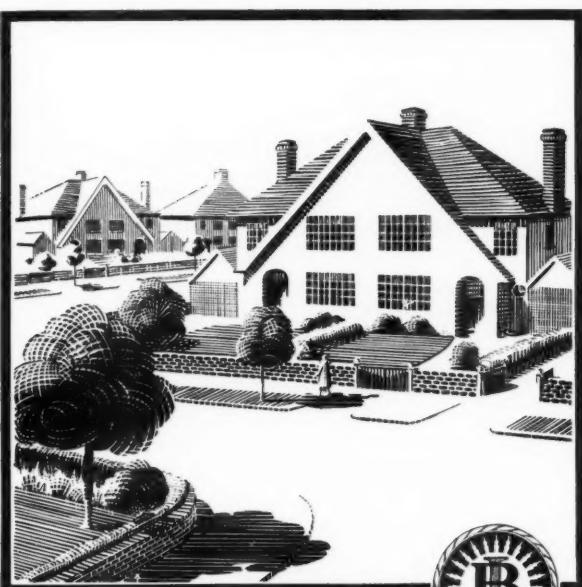
Those who feel that a cost of, say, 2d. an hour for heating a room is rather high, often forget that the cost of coal for open fires keeps rising and that the difference between the two systems of heating becomes less owing to this and also to the fact that in general the cost of electricity for domestic purposes is falling.

In considering the question of an all-electric house, it is advisable to obtain the co-operation and advice of the local supply engineer, as in some cases a specially low tariff can be obtained, and in any case considerable help should be forthcoming in connection with the choice of the most suitable equipment and its installation.

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1939 CARS TESTED—IX: THE FORD PREFECT 10 H.P. SALOON

THE 10 h.p. Ford is an old favourite of mine, as I have handled many different cars since it first came out some years ago. In its latest form it has acquired a certain scholastic dignity, and has been suitably named "The Perfect." The chassis and engine have been little changed, but the whole appearance of the car is altered by the addition of what is sometimes known as a "crocodile" type bonnet, which is a great deal longer and much improves the appearance of the car. This type of bonnet is in one piece and opens up from the front; there is also a considerable space between the radiator and the exterior ornamental grille.

In certain respects this type of bonnet, first made famous in this country of recent times by the Lincoln "Zephyr," adds to the accessibility of the engine. It is also a great convenience if one has to get at anything in cold weather, since it eliminates the usual struggle with catches and knobs. This type of bonnet gives moderately good access to the oil-level dipstick, but the oil-filler orifice is perhaps a little low.

SPECIFICATION

Four cylinders, 63.5mm. bore by 92.56mm. stroke. Capacity, 1,172 c.c. R.A.C. rating, 10 h.p. £7 10s. tax. Side valves. Three-bearing crank shaft. Six-volt battery, coil ignition with automatic advance. Down-draught carburettor. Three-speed gear box, central lever and synchro-mesh. Over-all length, 12ft. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. Weight, unladen, 16cwt. 3qrs. Double entrance saloon, £152 10s. Leather upholstery and sliding roof, £10 extra.

Performance
Tapley Meter

Gear	Gear Ratio	Max. pull lbs. per ton	Gradient climbed
Top	5.5 to 1	200 lbs.	1 in 11
2nd	9.7 " 1	380 "	1 " 5.8
1st	16.89 " 1	—	—

Acceleration

M.P.H.	Top	2nd
10 to 30	11.2 sec.	6.5 sec.
20 to 40	12 "	10 "
30 to 50	17 "	—

From rest to 30 m.p.h. in 8 seconds.
50 " 23
" Maximum timed speed 62 m.p.h.

Brakes

Ferodo-Tapley Meter 95%
Stop in 14 ft. from 20 m.p.h.
" " 32 " 30 "
" " 88 " 50 "

The new body weighs only a few pounds more than the old one, so the smart performance of this car has not been adversely affected. The acceleration is lively, though a certain amount of use of the gear box should be made to get the

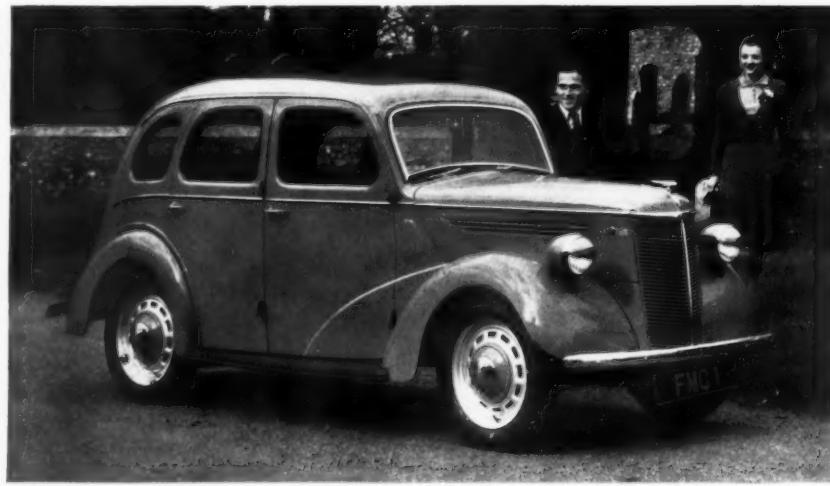
inordinately prejudiced. It is beautifully light and absolutely safe at the highest speed of which the car is capable, while there is hardly any reaction from the road. It is also commendably high-gearred.

The brakes are another exceptionally good feature. They are very light and powerful, and pull the car up smoothly even on very slippery surfaces. My figure of 95 per cent. with the Ferodo Tapley meter was actually obtained on an icy surface, so that 100 per cent. would have easily been registered on a really good dry one. These brakes are of the Girling type.

The general design is simple and straightforward, the engine being of the usual Ford side-valve type, with valves that do not require any adjustment as they have mushroom ends. The hand-brake lever is of the push-and-pull type, so as to leave the floor boards unencumbered. It is quite effective, and works on the rear wheels only.

The driving position is good, and the longer bonnet does not impair the visibility for the driver on the near side unduly. The car which I had was fitted with leather upholstery and sliding roof, for which £10 extra is charged. This sliding roof is not very large, and there is a good piece of body-work left above the wind screen, but the view from this is good.

The amount of room provided for the occupants is another exceptionally good feature. Both at the back and in front the leg room is ample; there is plenty of head room, and the width is exceptional for a car of its size.



THE FORD PREFECT FOUR-DOOR SALOON

best results. The engine pulls surprisingly well at low speeds, however, and would undoubtedly have come down to five or six miles an hour, but for the fact that the carburettor setting on the car which I was given to try was not quite right, with the result that there was rather more flutter in the engine at low speeds than would have been the case normally. A little adjustment would have undoubtedly put this right.

This little car is capable of maintaining very high averages on difficult roads. An easy cruising speed of about 50 m.p.h. can be maintained without the driver having to exert himself in any way, and at this speed the engine is very smooth and sweet. When accelerating, however, there is a sturdy throb from the power unit, but this is not at all unpleasant.

Over 40 m.p.h. can be obtained on the second of the three gears, and this gear is also very useful for acceleration purposes. Synchro-mesh is fitted to the second and top ratios, and the gear change is very easy, the lever being stiff and the changes up or down silent and positive.

The clutch is light, and engages easily and smoothly, while the transmission at any speed is commendably silent. A very pleasant feature is the springing, which employs the usual Ford transverse leaf springs. For a car of this size it is really exceptionally good on rough surfaces. The little vehicle will take heavily potholed surfaces at an astonishing speed, without the occupants receiving any unpleasant effects. On the open road at speed it also gives the driver a feeling of confidence, and one of the reasons that very good averages can be maintained over winding roads is that the car is very free from sway on corners and sits down to its work beautifully.

The steering is my old friend "worm and nut," in favour of which I am always



The spare wheel compartment under the luggage locker



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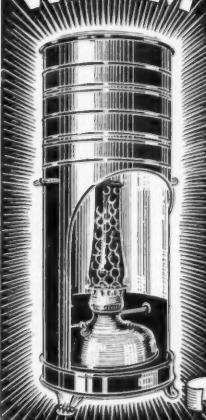
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WINTER SPORTS IN NORWAY

FOR several weeks now Norway has been wrapped in its winter coat of snow. The fishing-rod has been stowed away, and skaters go sailing across the thick, smooth ice that covers the lakes. Everywhere there is that brightness and clarity of atmosphere which is so exhilarating, and the long hours of daylight which make winter days in Norway so agreeable, while at night Aurora Borealis flashes across the sky like a giant firework display. This strange and pleasant contrast to our own winter months makes Norway seem a long way off, yet it is in fact reached by an easy and comfortable journey, and the quickest crossing can be accomplished in eighteen hours. The B. and N. Line's luxurious motor vessels sail from Newcastle-on-Tyne for Bergen every Tuesday and Saturday evening, and the great snow-covered Norwegian mountains, rising steeply from the sea, come into view the following afternoon. The traveller who wishes to go direct to Oslo can travel by the Fred Olsen Line boats from the same port. The latter is a longer journey, taking some thirty-eight hours, but it provides passengers with an opportunity of seeing some of the country's grandest scenery as the boat makes its way past the south coast and through the vast Oslo Fjord.

At both Oslo and Bergen the boats are met by trains which take visitors straight to the principal winter sports centres.

One thing you can be sure about whichever resort you choose, and that is the excellence of the hotels. The terms are moderate, and whether you prefer one that is small and quiet or something more sophisticated, they all have the same high standard of warmth, *cuisine*, and cleanliness. And after long and strenuous days in the snow, one certainly appreciates to the full the comforts of good food and hot baths.

The spacious, undulating nature of the Norwegian landscape, and the great depth of firm, dry snow, make it ideal for every possible kind of winter sports. Being less precipitous than the Alps, and free from avalanches, ski journeys lasting for days or even weeks can be made there in perfect safety, though a guide is recommended for the longer trips. Tracks are clearly marked by stone cairns and coloured bands on the trees, and there are plenty of huts, set up by the Norwegian Tourist Association for refreshment and accommodation overnight.

The Oslo-Bergen Railway runs through magnificent ski-ing country, and all along the route are to be found the most delightful



HOSBJØR, OVERLOOKING LAKE MJOSA IS SURROUNDED BY FINE SKI-ING FIELDS

resorts to suit every possible taste. Stalheim is only three and a half hours from Bergen by rail and car. Although it has been known as a summer resort for many years, its excellent facilities for winter sports have only recently been recognised. The surrounding mountain ranges make it an ideal terrain for slalom and down-hill races, while the less expert ski-er may enjoy the easier tracks that have been staked out in the valleys. Myrdal, not many miles away, has several first-rate slalom ski tracks. Finse, situated nearly 4,000ft. up, is the highest station on the line, and the Finsenut Peak, which towers above the hotel, provides a variety of steep and exciting runs with a drop of 1,000ft. From here there are numerous excursions which can be taken across the Hardanger plateau by the distance runner, while a special feature of the place is the huge skating rink.

Ustaoset and Geilo, east of Finse, enjoy very reliable snow conditions. The former, 3,300ft. up, makes an excellent centre for trips to all parts of the mountain plateau, while Geilo, perhaps the most attractive of all the resorts on the Oslo-Bergen Line, lies just below the tree limit, so that the runs on the lower slopes thread their way between groups of glittering, snow-covered firs. Here the

average of daily sunshine reaches as much as ten or fifteen hours in March and April.

Another fine stretch of snowfields lies on the Oslo-Dovre line, which runs north to the old city of Trondheim from the capital. The picturesque little town of Lillehammer is set in undulating parkland and pine forests on the edge of Norway's largest lake, Mjøsa. It is the scene of many important sporting events during the winter months, and has one of the finest open-air skating rinks in the country. Høsbyr, twenty minutes' drive from Hamar, is another resort with wonderful views over Lake Mjøsa. It is famous for its toboggan runs, some of which are several miles long. Farther north, in the Gudbrandsdal Valley, lie Dombås, Fefor and Gausdal, three attractive villages with high averages of sunshine and admirable conditions for ski-ing.

From Dombås trains climb to the plateau above, whence ski-ers can return along marked tracks. Fefor, overlooking the lake which bears its name, is surrounded by pine forests, beyond which stretches open mountain country ideal for ski-ing, both for beginners and experts. Visitors are accommodated in detached villas grouped round a picturesque building in the traditional Norwegian style which contains the dining and social rooms. Gausdal stands on an open plateau above thick fir woods, and is immensely popular among Norwegian winter-sports enthusiasts.

If Oslo does not claim to be a winter-sports centre in the strictest sense of the term, it has nevertheless several excellent winter resorts on the surrounding hills. Frognerstølen, reached in twenty minutes by a frequent service of electric trains on the Holmenkollen line, is the starting point for the ski runs which extend for many miles north through the Nordmarken Woods. Skaters have a choice between the Bislet, Frognerstadion and Dælenengen rinks, which are all of natural ice, open, and illuminated at night; and then there is tobogganing on the famous Korketrekkeren run. If skating and ski-ing demand skill and energy, tobogganing can be enjoyed by everyone, and all day long a continual stream of people of every age and size makes its way by electric train to the top of "the Corkscrew" and comes gaily sailing down again. Throughout the season national and international winter sports contests are held in or near the capital each week-end, and the first week of March this year will see the famous meeting at Holmenkollen, where the world's greatest ski jumpers compete for the trophy awarded by H.M. King Haakon. D. N. S.



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WOMAN TO WOMAN

A LETTER TO FATHER CHRISTMAS—BEARING BENEFITS—DR. JOHNSON'S RESOLUTIONS—BELLS AND RINGERS—THE LING CENTENARY

By THE HON. THEODORA BENSON

NOW that Christmas and New Year's Eve and Day, with that break that they occasion in ordinary life, the loss of time and the gain of—surely, something?—are safely over, we have leisure to take stock of them. I have a Christmas curiosity to offer you: a letter from a six year old boy that has come to my hand. He must surely be the most generous child in the world.

It is addressed to "Father Christmas, North Pole." It runs like this:

"DEAR FATHER CHRISTMAS,—Would you please once if you dont mind come and see me in the morning because I never see you? I'll be putting a sweet on the chimney because if you're hungry when you bring the toys. And I'll also as Mama said I could, take a big trunk and put a lot of toys in from me to you.

At the bottom of the letter is a drawing of a Christmas tree, and beside it, to round off all (the child speaks French as readily as English) the word "Fin."

I NEVER, in all my childhood, thought to wonder what sort of a Christmas Father Christmas had—this sounds like the old song about "Who takes care of the Caretaker's daughter while the Caretaker's busy taking care?" Perhaps young Guido's offer might strike one as carrying coals to Newcastle, but to me he appears as one of the rare people for whom familiarity with kindness does not blunt the fine generous feeling of gratitude. I say "rare" because it is genuinely difficult not to take for granted the repetition of favour. After all, it does not work out in practice that once you have landed somebody with doing you a good turn you have staked out a sort of claim on them. Apparently too many people find it difficult to behave graciously when they are under an obligation to someone; they may even resent that which they want and need. But I really do not see why they cannot manage better. A person under an obligation has only to behave with ordinary pleasantness about it for the one who has done the favour to feel automatically fond of him (that is, if the favour concerns time, trouble, consideration, skill, sympathy, or unselfishness. One cannot generalise so easily about money—it is a very special subject, and must be "continued in our next"). There is an excellent French farce called "Le Voyage de M. Perichon," in which the young admirers of M. Perichon's daughter endeavour to win his approval; one saves his life on a mountain—a slice of luck, you might think, but soon and very convincingly it proves alienating; the other subtly fakes an accident in which M. Perichon has to save his life. Instantly he becomes a triumphant favourite.

Nevertheless, the most benevolent friend does notice in the end if one drifts into taking all that he does for granted and only wonders what one can get next. Guido should do wonderfully well next year out of Father Christmas.

AT this time of year, when everyone is busy trying to keep a New Year resolutions, I sometimes console myself by remembering poor old Dr. Johnson, and the agonies of resolve he went through all his life to no purpose. Year after year he piously made his resolutions and even wrote them down, but year after year he had to record his complete failure to keep them. He made his resolutions not only at the New Year but on his birthday and on the anniversary of his wife's death—but even that didn't help him. Some of them are intriguing: "To combat notions o' obligation," "To reclaim imaginations," afford wide scope in interpretation. Others are more defined, like "Keep a journal," "To go to church," and the best, "Scheme of life." We find him, at the age of forty-nine, venturing to write: "This year I hope to learn Diligence." His chief ambition seems to have been to get up early. At first it was to be eight o'clock, but later it became "To rise early; not later than six if I can; I hope sooner, but as soon as I can." After years of failure to improve on ten or twelve o'clock, he resolves merely "To rise by degrees more early in the morning." Another preoccupation is to avoid what he guardedly calls "vexing thoughts," and to get himself (and his rooms) in order, "To methodize my life," "To resist sloth," or "Tomorrow I prepare to regulate my room." It is all very pathetic. And then from time to time he realises that he is not living up to his resolutions, and we find on one list a note written months later, admitting "Of all this I have done nothing." At fifty-five he records sadly: "I am less affected with the shame of idleness,"

and refers to himself as the "wretched mispender of another year." At this point my glance wanders to the twelve stout volumes, calf, of Johnson's Works (presentation, of course), and I can't help wondering whether for us, too, things may not be so much better than they seem, after all. Then he tries writing his resolutions in Latin, but at the age of seventy-something he is still making the same resolutions. He gets a hint of the truth towards the end, and asks himself: "Surely I shall not spend my whole life with my total disapprobation?" The answer is, of course: "That's just about it." You saw my point? When the great have failed so completely, what right have we boys and girls to expect success? So I have made no New Year resolutions.

DOING my duty by the Old Year, and listening to the bells last Saturday, I made the mistake of referring to the sound as a "peal." I was corrected by my knowledgeable friend, who reminded me (but I didn't know it before) that, strictly speaking, bells do not sound a "peal" until they have rung 5,040 changes. Until then it is just a "ring." The number seemed rather excessive to me, and I imagined that not all the changes could be different. But apparently changes have been rung to the number of twenty thousand or more, taking hours and hours non-stop. I was rash enough to question the possibility of making so many variations on such a limited supply of bells, but it was demonstrated to me to my complete satisfaction that the combinations are far greater than have ever been used. In fact, at the rate of two a second, it would take ninety-one years to ring the changes on twelve bells. So that ought to see us out. The changes, therefore, are generally made according to some set pattern, and the different patterns have different names, which convey little to the average person—Grandsire Triples, Grandsire Cators, Double Norwich, Court Bob, etc. Change-ringing apparently used to be a fashionable pastime, pursued with zest by young bucks as well as village youths. Some became so enthusiastic that they would fix up a silent bell complete with bell-rope, to practise on in the garret of the manor house. From being practice in bell-ringing this gradually came to be looked upon merely as physical exercise; and in the course of years the bell-rope was dispensed with, and one practised with the bell direct. This in time became the prosaic instrument we now know as the dumb-bell.

Actual bell-ringing is one of the most exhausting of exercises, calling for steady nerve and extraordinary stamina. It would also seem to encourage good-fellowship; from the earliest times bell-ringing has been associated with beer-drinking, and each ringer usually has his mug of beer to hand. Perhaps the sound of bells sounds even better—more distant, yet more alluring—after a night out.

THE Ling Physical Education Association, which has been commemorating the centenary this week of the death of Pehr Henrik Ling, the pioneer of Swedish gymnastics, also organised a most interesting series of lectures. A very large number of subjects were covered in the programme, reflecting the remarkably wide range of interests for which the Association caters. Ling provides an example of one of those men, and there are plenty of them in history, who started out upon one career and finished up in another. He is described in such books of reference as I have consulted as "a Swedish medical-gymnastic practitioner." He was born at Ljuna in 1776, and took a degree in divinity. Then he tried teaching. Fencing and divinity do not seem to have much in common, but in 1804 we find that Ling, who meanwhile had travelled extensively abroad, was back in his native land, teaching fencing at the University of Lund. Thereafter he set about developing his system of gymnastics, having meanwhile taken a medical course. The system he divided into four branches: "pedagogical," "medical," "military," and "aesthetic." It was not long before his services in the field he had devised for himself were officially recognised, and he became Principal of the Royal Gymnastic Central Institute in Stockholm, where gymnastic instructors were trained. That was in 1813, while in 1831 the Swedish General Medical Association elected him a member. "Physical jerks" and "the daily dozen" have long since passed into the language of most of us, and the curriculum of many, but I wonder how many people who use the terms and do the exercises realise how great has been Ling's contribution to the physical well-being of many of us to-day.

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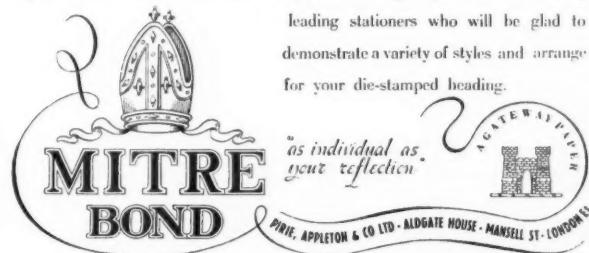
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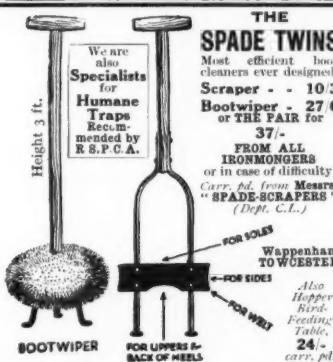
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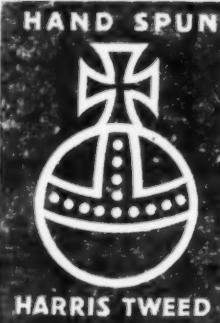
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FASHION FAIR

BY FRANCES LOVELL



THE Embassy Club on a Thursday night represents the perfect atmosphere and background for cosmopolitan society in correct restaurant gowns—no longer do smart women wear just any evening dress to dine in fashionable restaurants or night clubs. Safe it is to say that only those women coming on from a large public function or private reception are seen in real *décolletée*. The season's *chic* for favourite exclusive night haunts has a sleeve sometimes short, often three-quarter, slightly rucked, or the classic—so beloved by men connoisseurs—long and tight fitting. This gown may have a neckline tight at the throat and getting low at the back, or it is often

a deep square both back and front. Schiaparelli makes many of her outstanding ones high all round with a high V in front. She always shows a hat—the jet black crépe and velvet on our opening page is typical of her genre. Materials for the restaurant dress range from rich lustrous velvets in black or any of those berry shades so becoming to the fairest skin—"elderberry Kisel" is the exact description of the long-sleeved dress designed by Victor Stiebel on page three, while his other is resilient anthracite black. Metal cloth, like pure molten gold, in one long-sleeved, square-necked, Empire-waisted Rahvis looks marvellous under the electric lighting. . . .



Glittering sequins combined with snowy white are another of this House's excellent contributions, while cold, icy blue and clear, sparkling silver will stand out in the most crowded dance floor. Heavy dull black crêpe is always particularly distinguished. Violet matt jersey, platinum grey with green, white and red gold combined with copper metal embroidery have enormous *cachet* and allow any stones in any settings to bring their own colour note, emeralds, rubies, sapphires, amethysts, turquoises or aquamarines look equally magnificent. Any of the metal meshes for shoes or the exact tone of the chosen jewel in dull crêpe are right. Bag, gloves, handkerchiefs are charming in the chosen colour, or, if true elegance you'd achieve, several small bags of green, white and red gold mesh tied together with copper roping! Bracelets are particularly important on the long-sleeved restaurant-diner's wrist.



Those newest ones of an aggressive colour mixture in all the semi-precious stones are really perfection. Heavy hand-beaten gold and silver ones, plain or with jade, chrysoprase, onyx or black crystal inlaid, sometimes monogrammed or crested, have great *chic*; any metal or combination of metal mesh clasped together corset or hook-and-eye fashion are new; even ebony, white sycamore or polished rosewood are smart on slender wrists. If these bracelets are used, have an evening box made in one wood, your monogram or crest inlaid in a combination of the other two!

WINTER IN THE GARDEN

METHODS OF PLANT PROTECTION

THAT there is a great deal of truth in the aphorism that our climate is at once the best and the worst in the world for the cultivation of a garden, must have been borne home to all gardeners during the last week or two. Not for years, in the south at least, has a heavy mantle of snow on tree and shrub greeted the gardener's eye in Christmas week, and there must have been many, either unmindful or unheeding of the vicious extremes of which the British climate is capable, who were taken completely unawares by the sudden visitation of Arctic weather a fortnight ago, more especially after such a welcome extension of summer-like conditions into the autumn. Wise gardeners, knowing the sudden changes that are typical of our climate, and profiting by past experiences, probably took early and prompt steps to lessen the risk of damage once the wind was from the north and east, by affording what protection they could to all plants that were still in their full tide of growth; but the cold snap arrived so suddenly and with such ferocity that it found most gardeners behind in their preparations. A blanketing of snow, despite its weight and the damage it may do to trees and shrubs unless they have some support, is perhaps the greatest protection a garden can have in periods of hard and prolonged frost. On this occasion, however, the snow came a little too late to be of the greatest service, and it would have been more effective as a protective measure had it arrived before the killing frosts, which, although it is early yet to say definitely, have probably left behind a trail of casualties.

Speculation on the possibility of a prolongation of the cold spell is profitless, but, whether it is of only temporary duration or not does not matter a great deal. The important point is that its sudden arrival early in the winter should serve as a warning to all gardeners to take immediate steps to afford some measure of protection to all those plants that are not inured to every climatic excess. Innocuous to natives and reliably hardy trees and shrubs as well as other robust plants, alternations of frost and thaw, which are the invariable accompaniment of our winters and early springs, are fatal to many of the recent newcomers to our rock gardens. Several of these exotics, among them many of the saxifrages, gentians, primulas, meconopsis, dianthus, clematis, androsaem, and the lewisia, suffer badly in a season of rapidly changing temperatures, and unless they can be given the shelter of a pane of glass, a sheet of the modern substitute called Windolite, or one of the up-to-date cloches which are excellent for the purpose, they are likely to show their dislike of the conditions by their complete disappearance. There should be no attempt, however, to coddle such high mountain treasures, which are all bold hardy and will tolerate excessive dry cold without flinching. Any attempt to coddle them is likely to prove almost as fatal as giving no protection at all, and the whole object of the glass covering is to shelter them from excessive winter wet and the alternation of freezing and thawing, which have the effect of splitting the crowns and leaving the plants—at least, all those with shallow roots—high and dry on the surface. The uprooting of shallow-rooting things, following the lifting action of a thaw, is a point still not sufficiently appreciated by the majority of gardeners, but it is one that all will be wise to observe, and if the inexpert take the trouble to place a stone or two close to the plants to weigh them down, or anchor them in some other way, they will considerably reduce the risk of casualties.

Experience shows that a great many of the plants that find a place in gardens nowadays are more or less on the tender side, and some timely and suitable protection afforded them makes all the difference to their coming safely through spells of Arctic weather such as we have just experienced. Before dealing with the methods that can be employed

and the materials that can be used, it seems opportune to call attention to a detail often overlooked, but which in some ways is even more important than the provision of artificial protection—the position and aspect in which half-hardy plants are placed. There seems to exist a widespread belief that tender plants should be given a place where they can enjoy the most sunshine. While it appears to be the natural and most sensible course to adopt, it has proved to be wrong in practice, for such plants when frozen are exposed too quickly to bright sunshine, which invariably follows a frosty night, with the result that they suffer severely, if they are not killed outright. The damage is caused by their not being allowed to thaw

out gradually, which they can do if placed in a west, south-west or north exposure. With all woody plants the question of aspect is most important, and, where he can, the gardener should make a point of placing all those shrubs whose buds or young growths are susceptible to injury by frost out of reach of the early morning sun.

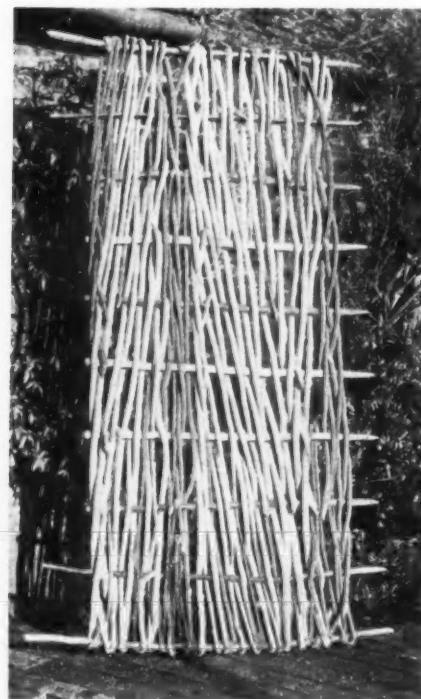
In dealing with tender bulbs or herbaceous plants it is not so important. These require all the sunshine possible to ensure their thorough ripening, and as they generally die down during the winter, it is a comparatively easy matter to protect them with some dry littery material such as bracken, evergreen branches, ashes, or even glass lights or wattle hurdles. Whatever is used should be as light as possible, allow a free circulation of air, and be capable of easy removal when not required. Any material which lies like a close blanket on the surface of the ground should be avoided, for it is apt to do more harm than good, especially in a wet winter. A mulch of dry leaves is often recommended and is excellent, both in serving the purpose and in appearance, but its drawback—and that a serious one—is that it requires to be kept in place by a layer of wire netting in windy weather. Equally effective is to draw several inches of soil up round the stem of a plant, or peat or leaf mould. This can be practised to advantage with roses, rather than applying a dressing of wet manure round the bushes, which is so often done. The same can be carried out with many herbaceous plants, like peonies, whose bright red spears, which in some places are already showing, are all the better for a covering if they are to survive the trials of January unscathed.

Where natural shelters—such as walls, hedges, or belts of trees—do not exist to temper the winds and gales from the north and east, much can be done to safeguard the garden inmates by the erection of wattle hurdles in exposed parts, or some kind of lattice-work thatched with various materials. Wattle hurdles make the most effective wind breaks, and, being convenient and portable, are invaluable for protecting specimen plants, grown either in the open or against walls, the hurdles being placed against the wall at a suitable angle. Light frames covered with mats or canvas are invaluable for the same purpose. Loose mats or canvas sheets may also be used to shelter plants growing on walls—which is, in effect, providing the plants with a light overcoat. Woody plants with bare exposed stems are often susceptible to injury from frost, and with these it is a good plan to wrap the stems round with hay-bands or sacking. As an alternative, dry leaves or bracken can be packed round the stems and encased with wire netting, although with this method it is advisable to examine the plants occasionally, as the covering is apt to attract field voles, which take shelter in such comfortable quarters and gnaw the bark, frequently girdling the plants a few inches above the ground line. Heather and gorse are both excellent for protecting the base of woody plants, as indeed are most evergreen branches, and, as they allow the free circulation of air on the surface, they can be left on with safety for longer periods than closer coverings. Reed mats, as used on the Continent, are most useful and can be employed with advantage to protect moderate-sized plants. With other plants, like some of the tender bamboos, the ferns, or red-hot pokers, it is sufficient to draw them together, place some dry material round about them, and thatch them to prevent water lodging in the crowns. In this way they will come through severe weather unharmed.

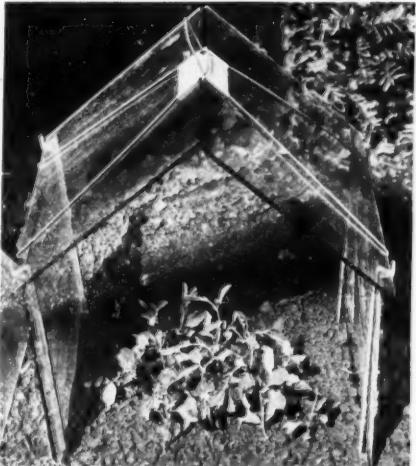
It is hardly likely that we have seen the back of frost and snow for the present winter, and gardeners will be wise to take what precautions they can to meet the onslaught before it comes. In the meantime, where the ground is not waterlogged by the melting snow, advantage should be taken of the break in the cold snap to push ahead with all digging that has been held up, in order to allow future frosts to work their beneficent influence on the earth, and break it down more efficiently than can be done by the spade. G. C. TAYLOR.

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A new edition of the "Classified List of Daffodil Names" has been published by the Royal Horticultural Society. The object of the list is to stabilise the nomenclature of daffodils, and it should therefore be in the hands of all those who specialise in the flower. Since the last edition appeared, over four hundred new names have been registered with the Society, and the present list now contains references to over 8,000 daffodils and may be regarded as a fairly complete guide to the names in common circulation. Full particulars are given regarding the division and sub-division to which the variety belongs, as well as the name of the raiser and the approximate age of the variety. The names of varieties considered to be surpassed by modern varieties are inset, and those which have been certificated by the R.H.S. are indicated, together with the dates of the awards. Copies of the list (price 1s. post 1s. 3d.) may be obtained from the Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W.1.



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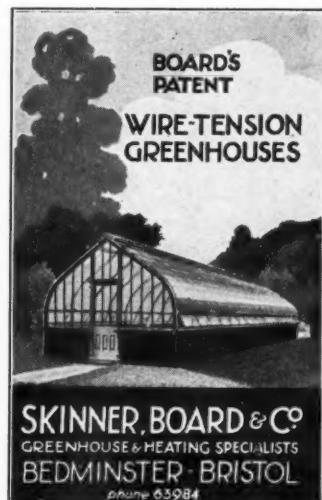
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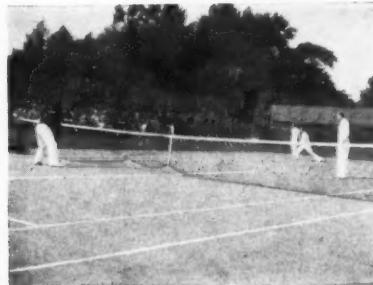
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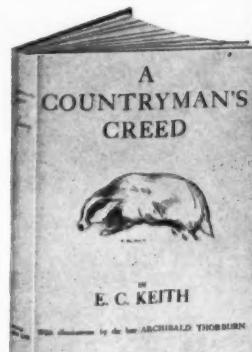
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